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Indyk assails Israel's trade policies

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Clinton administration is demanding Israel abolish import barriers blamed for $1 billion U.S. trade deficit with the Jewish state. In a scathing condemnation, U.S. Ambassador Martin Indyk on Wednesday called on an increasingly prosperous Israel to give a fair shake to those who "stood by you at some of your darkest moments, when the future looked very bleak indeed." "Bureaucratic impediments that stand in the way of American firms doing business and selling their products here need to be removed, and need to be removed now." He noted that while the $5.25 billion of Israeli exports to the United States last year outpaced imports by nearly $1 billion, the country runs $7.5 billion trade deficit with the European Union. At the same time, Israel receives an annual $3 billion in U.S. loans and grants and enjoys another $10 billion in U.S. loan guarantees "under which the (Israeli) government has explicitly undertaken to buy American." "And what do you do? you buy from Europe. You have put us in the absurd, untenable situation where the United States is subsidising your trade deficit with Europe."

Talks held on displaced Palestinians

CAIRO (AFP) — An Israeli-Arab committee discussing the return of Palestinians who lost their homes in the Middle East war of 1967 was at odds here Wednesday over how to define the term displaced. "We began discussing the basic points linked to this humanitarian matter. We addressed the definition of the term 'displaced'," chief Israeli negotiator Yosef Hadass said. "There are differences but the talks are going on in a good atmosphere," said the former foreign ministry general director. The day-long talks grouped delegates from Israel, Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinians. The head of the Egyptian team, Badr Hammam, said the talks were keeping to "the agenda established at the experts' first meeting" on June 7 in Beersheba, Israel. The term "displaced" is generally applied to Palestinians who fled to neighbouring Arab countries during the 1967 war when the Jewish state occupied the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The two sides also differ over the number of Palestinians who fit the category and a schedule for their return.

PLO and Israel in intense effort to finalise self-rule deal

Prisoners call off hunger-strike hoping for accord

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) buckled down Wednesday to the task of putting flesh on the bones of a deal to extend self-rule across the West Bank by a new deadline of July 25.

In other developments:

— Two Israeli security guards were shot and killed near the West Bank early Wednesday. Police said the slayings did not appear to politically motivated.

Two men from an Arab village inside Israel were arrested.

— Palestinian prisoners called off a mass hunger-strike in the hope that the upcoming Israeli-PLO accord will lead to their release.

Around 4,000 of the 6,500 Palestinians in Israeli jails joined the action since it was launched in Jenid on the occupied West Bank on June 18 to press for their release.

Marwan Barghuti, a senior figure in the Fateh movement, said the 700 prisoners in Jenid started to take food.

"The prisoners want to give (the negotiators) a chance up to the signing of the accord," said Mr. Barghuti. "For the time being, only the people in Jenid have called off the movement but the others will follow.

Israel has pledged to release hundreds of prisoners when a deal on the next phase of Palestinian self-rule is struck. Several hundred more would go free after autonomy elections.

Around 1,000 Palestinians arrested since the 1993 declaration of principles launched autonomy would remain inside as would 1,500 waiting to be tried and another 900 common criminals.

— Israeli security officers dismantled a large bomb planted outside a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip, Israel media reported.

— The bomb was set to explode when an Israeli army patrol entered the Morag settlement, the ITIM news agency said. The explosives were dismantled safely and no one was hurt, it said.

Negotiators Uri Savir, director general of Israel's foreign ministry, and Palestinian Economy Minister Ahmad Qouriea were given another three weeks to agree dates and details of army redeployment and elections.

"There are still a lot of points to work out, even if the principles of the major issues are settled," Foreign Minister Shimon Peres admitted.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Mr. Peres announced late Tuesday in "understanding" on the main aspects of the second phase of self-rule.

But they gave no indication of when the military pullback from major Palestinian towns and autonomy elections would finally take place.

Mr. Peres refused Wednesday to talk of "sacred dates," meaning July 25, and said "only God can set sacred dates."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, having missed a July 1 deadline and numerous others, confined his predictions to mid-1997 for the completion of army redeployment.

He warned that the final phase — a pull back from Arab villages — would not be carried out if articles in the 1968 PLO Charter calling for Israel's destruction were not amended within two months of elections.

Providing details of the emerging accord, Mr. Peres said Israel was planning to withdraw its troops from four major West Bank towns before Palestinian elections later this year.

But Mr. Peres added that the gradual expansion of autonomy throughout the West Bank would be halted if the Palestinian Authority did not prevent militants opposed to the peacemaking from launching attacks against Israelis from the self-rule areas.

"I think that the Palestinians who enter the cities understand very well that if there will be terrorism, everything that was agreed upon will not stand the test of reality," Mr. Peres told reporters.

Under the developing agreement, troops would pull out of four West Bank towns — Jenin, Nablus, Kalqilya and Tulkarm — to be followed by Palestinian elections in the fall, Mr. Peres said.

A Palestinian official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the pullout would begin four weeks after the agreement is signed and end at least 25 days before the voting.

During the elections, special arrangements would be made for the three remaining West Bank towns — Ramallah, Bethlehem and Hebron — so Palestinians will not go to the polls with Israeli soldiers present, Mr. Peres said.

For those three cities, "we

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His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Wednesday attends a seminar entitled "Muslims and the Dialogue of Cultures in the contemporary World." (photo by Yousef Al Allan)

Islam must establish stronger dialogue to cope with misconceptions — Regent

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday opened the tenth meeting of the AL al Bayt Foundation by calling on Muslim scholars to strengthen ties of cooperation and promote cultural and ideological ties with Muslims all over the world regardless of factions and sects.

The Regent also urged scholars to come up with modern cultural projects through programmes of social, cultural and economic and educational values for the benefit of the /Muslim World.

The Regent called on the participants to investigate and propagate facts about the reality of the Muslim World, in order to better expose this reality and to clarify misconceptions and errors.

Referring to the title of the symposium: "Muslims and the Dialogue of Cultures in the Contemporary World," the Regent said that the theme of the conference indicates clearly that it will focus on developments and changes in the Arab and Islamic World, and will refer, in particular, to the distorted image portrayed of Islam in the West.

He told the 80 scholars gathered at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman that due to this misrepresentation of the faith and its lack of dialogue with the West, it has become customary for the West to describe Muslims as fundamentalists and terrorists.

Islam has nothing to do with this fundamentalism because it is a religion that calls for tolerance and moderation, a view totally opposed to the popular one conceived by some authors in the West, he added.

The existence of unbiased and conscientious writers in the West have had little impact on these misconceptions of Islam, noted the Regent. He said there was a need for dialogue to be established among various cultures. Such an exchange is bound to promote a true understanding of the Islamic faith, he added.

The fact that other nations are ahead of the Islamic World is due to the meticulous study of Islamic cultures and systems by the West. Their subsequent interaction with the Islamic World was based on that study, added Prince Hassan.

No nation on earth can remain isolated from other cultures and it is through cultural normalisation that the West has achieved so much, said the Regent. He added that the Arab and Islamic culture has been the victim of Western belittlement and distortion and that the Muslims have been described as a people who lack creative potential.

"The West has also published literature that has abused our societies and offended our traditions and beliefs," Prince Hassan said.

What Muslims need to do, he added, is to widen the scope of their knowledge and develop cultures not only among Islamic scholars but particularly among Islamic communities around the world.

The Regent said it was necessary to protect future generations against hostile preconceptions of Arabs and Muslims by equipping them with scientific, cultural and spiritual knowledge.

The Regent told the scholars who come from 30 different nations that their job is to highlight exemplary qualities in Islam and to come up with a modern cultural strategy to amend the image of Islam before the world.

After the opening ceremony, the participants held their first working session at the Regency Palace Hotel.

Speakers at the session, which was chaired by Abdul Hadi Boutaleb and Abdul Aziz Al Tuweijiri, included Fahmi Al Jadaan, Sheikh Mohammad Ghazali, Taha Al Adwani, Hisham Nashaba, Murad Hoffmann and Tharwat Akasheh.

The speakers emphasised that cooperation and co-existence were a means of survival for the human race.

Islam, they stressed, did not know in its history the concepts of cultural clashes or wars. They said the fact that there is a dialogue between cultures and civilisation necessarily means that there are diverse cultures, not one world culture.

Rifkind is foreign secretary, Heseltine deputy to Major

LONDON (Agencies) — Prime Minister John Major reshuffled his cabinet Wednesday, naming Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind as foreign secretary and Board of Trade President Michael Heseltine to the powerful new post of deputy prime minister, Downing Street announced.

Mr. Rifkind replaced Douglas Hurd, who announced his retirement last month.

Employment Secretary Michael Portillo, a cabinet Eurosceptic, was named to defence, seen as a move towards the party's right wing after their strong showing in Tuesday's party's leadership election.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke retained his job.

The employment and education departments were consolidated under a new Department of Education and Employment, which went to Education Secretary Gillian Shepherd.

Agriculture Secretary William Waldegrave became chief secretary of the Treasury, replacing Jonathan Aitken, who resigned amid scandals over alleged illegal arms sales to Iran.

Scottish Secretary Ian Lang replaced Mr. Heseltine as president of the Board of Trade and Industry.

Health Secretary Virginia Bottomley moved to national heritage secretary and Stephan Dorrell replaced her at health.

George Young, financial secretary to the treasury, replaced Transport Secretary Brian Mawhinney, who became Tory Party chairman.

Douglas Hogg, minister of state at the Foreign Office, replaced Mr. Waldegrave at agriculture.

Mr. Heseltine's duties weren't immediately clear, but it was expected that he would take a larger role as a spokesman for the government and the Conservative Party.

Mr. Portillo's promotion was a gain for the party's restive right wing, but all the other major posts were occupied by Major loyalists from the centre or centre-left.

Mr. Major gained an opportunity to shake up the government when he took two-thirds of the vote against former cabinet member John Redwood Tuesday in the party leadership election.

"I believe that has put to rest any question or any speculation about the leadership of the Conservative Party up to and beyond the next election," Mr. Major said.

In the end, it may only mean that he will lead the Conservatives to defeat in a national election within two years. But once again, Mr. Major demonstrated that his opponents often underestimate his political skills.

He won despite the open hostility of most of the traditionally conservative press, and despite sniping and faint praise from his predecessor,

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Shahak had no power to decide — Syria

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — The military talks between Syria and Israel failed to achieve a significant breakthrough because the Israeli chief of staff was not authorised to take decisions, state radio said Wednesday.

Radio Damascus criticised Israel Chief of Staff Amnon Shahak for his approach to the negotiations with his Syrian counterpart Hikmat Shehabi in Washington last week.

The radio said the Israeli side "jumped from one subject to another ... which didn't allow them to find common denominators. The Israeli side was not, it seemed, authorised to take decisions, as opposed to the Syrian side.

"That's what limited the negotiations to simple discussions ... without achieving the results hoped for by the Americans and Syrians," the radio added.

The radio acknowledged, however, that Israel had shown a serious approach to certain questions.

Genreals Shahak and Shehabi met for three days in Washington from June 27 without achieving any tangible results, although military talks will resume in mid-July.

On Tuesday, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa said the two sides had come a step closer to agreement on security arrangements to accompany an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights as part of a peace deal.

Syria has asked Israel to pull out troops from a 14-kilometre wide strip in return for the demilitarisation of the Golan under a peace treaty, Israeli army radio reported Monday.

The radio said Syria wanted Israel to demilitarise 600 metres of land for every kilometre it will demilitarise on the strategic heights.

The 10-6 scale answered Israel's demand for asymmetrical zones because of the small size of the Jewish state.

The comments to reporters in Beirut came after he briefed Lebanese leaders.

Sudan threatens to cancel all treaties with Egypt

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — Sudan has threatened to cancel all its treaties with Cairo, including those on the Nile waters, if Egypt attacks its forces in the disputed border region of Halaib.

"Further attacks will be regarded as a flagrant violation of border treaties concluded by two countries," Interior Minister Al Tayeb Ibrahim Khair told the Sudanese parliament, quoted by Angaz Al Watani newspaper.

"Therefore, Sudan will not be committed to other agreements, including the Nile water agreement," he said.

Mr. Khair noted that the current border treaty was concluded during the colonial era of British occupation and was not signed by the present Islamic regime in Khartoum.

Hassan Al Tourabi, the spiritual head of Khartoum's Islamic administration, has threatened to "intervene" in the 1959 accord on division of water from the Nile, which runs through Sudan to Egypt.

Under the deal, Egypt can use 55.5 billion cubic metres and Sudan 18.5 billion cubic metres.

Egypt, while dismissing the threat as technically unfeasible, retorted that cutting off its Nile water supply was a "red line" that Khartoum must not cross.

The two have been trading threats and accusations since President Hosni Mubarak accused Khartoum of plotting an attempt on his life in Addis Ababa on June 26.

Sudan has accused Egypt of killing two Sudanese policemen and an army officer last week in attacks in the Red Sea border region of Halaib, which both countries claim.

On Tuesday, Khartoum announced it would try to take the long-running Halaib dispute to the World Court and said Egyptian troops had encircled Sudan's "token" force in the desert region and cut off their water supplies.

Speaking before the parliament along with Mr. Khair, Foreign Minister Ali Osman Mohammad Taha called for a diplomatic effort "to prove Sudan's legitimate rights to Halaib."

"Papers and documents should be placed before the U.N. Security Council in search of a solution to the problem," Mr. Taha said, adding that "the Egyptian regime is now completely isolated from its popular base."

Mr. Taha also pledged however that "no Egyptian or Arab blood will be shed by Sudanese bullets," the daily Akhbar Al Yom reported.

Egypt has acknowledged the death of two Sudanese policemen during gunfire in the border zone but not the killing of the army officer. It says Sudanese forces shot first.

Meanwhile Mr. Tourabi accused Egypt of lacking faith but said his country's belief in Islam would sweep north and cleanse its neighbour, the official news agency SUNA said.

"Egypt is today experiencing a drought in religion and faith. A catastrophe has befallen the Egyptians," Mr. Tourabi said.

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Ahmad Obeidat denies statements attributed to him in U.S. tabloid

'Allegations are a poisonous attempt to fish in murky waters'

AMMAN (J.T.) — Former Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat, well-known for his opposition to Jordan's peace treaty with Israel, has denied statements attributed to him in which he was strongly critical of the regime.

The statements that appeared in a Texas-based Arabic tabloid, quoted Mr. Obeidat as saying that during his tenure as chief of intelligence he was barred from investigating corruption, from pursuing investigations in the assassination in 1971 in Cairo of then-Prime Minister Wasfi Tel and that the Lower House of Parliament would not dare disagree with the palace.

In a statement published in the Arabic daily Al Ra'i and picked up by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, however, Mr. Obeidat said he categorically denies the newsreport.

"I do not recall that any questions of this nature were directed to me by any Arab or foreign journalist," the former prime minister said. I stress that most of the questions and answers were fabricated."

In its report, Arab Times quoted Mr. Obeidat as saying that he had no quarrel with His Majesty King Hussein, but with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan who called him and asked him to resign from his seat in the Senate following a speech he made at the Upper House strongly criticising the peace treaty.

Arab Times further quoted Mr. Obeidat as saying that the Crown Prince was responsible for 90 per cent of the political and economic decisions taken in the Kingdom.

Arab Times claimed it interviewed Mr. Obeidat in Khartoum in April where he was attending the popular Arab-Muslim conference convened there under the auspices of Sudanese strongman Hassan Tourabi.

Ahmad Obeidat

"I have to make clear that all the statements attributed to me concerning purely internal Jordanian issues are a poisonous attempt to fish in murky waters," said Mr. Obeidat, who was prime minister in 1984 to 1985.

"All the points that specifically refer to His Royal Highness the Crown Prince, the case of Wasfi Tel or the role of security forces in the 1970s are all cheap lies," Mr. Obeidat added.

Mr. Obeidat noted that the report appeared in Arab Times two months after the end of the Khartoum conference, which means it took its editors time to fabricate the story.

Ekeus: Iraq conceded offensive nature of biological programme

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Iraq admitted for the first time the offensive nature of its biological weapons programme, a senior U.N. official asserted Wednesday.

In a letter to the Security Council, Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) in charge of scrapping Baghdad's weapons of mass destruction, said Iraq had given him an oral statement during his recent visit to Baghdad.

"Iraq admitted for the first time the offensive nature of its biological weapons programme," Mr. Ekeus said, adding that until now Baghdad had insisted that its military biological programme was limited to defensive research and that no weapons agents had ever been produced.

Iraq said large quantities of biological warfare agents known as clostridium bolutlinum and bacillus anthracis were produced at the Al Hakam site in 1989 and 1990

Ahrar leader counters critics over Israel visit

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A lawyer who leads a Jordanian political party on Monday dismissed criticism against a recent visit he paid to Israel and asserted that the Jordanian Bar Association (JBA) council had no right to adopt any disciplinary action against him.

Ahmad Zoubi, who heads the Al Ahrar Party, told a press conference that his visit to Israel in May was natural now that Jordan and the Jewish state were at a state of peace after they signed a peace treaty in October.

"Our official visit to Israel aimed at announcing that the boycott and hate is over now," said Mr. Zoubi, who was accompanied on the visit by several other members of the party. "We are now not talking about peace because it is already accomplished. We are going a further step, which is friendship and cooperation between Jordan and Israel in all fields."

Mr. Zoubi, the first Jordanian political party leader to pay an official visit to Israel, has afoul of a coalition of political parties and group which have vowed to fight "normalisation" of relations between Jordan and Israel in line with the peace treaty.

The JBA executive council has referred a complaint against Mr. Zoubi to a "disciplinary committee" for action, which could include expulsion from the association.

But Mr. Zoubi said the JBA council had no right to take any action against him. He said it was his individual right and choice that he exercised while deciding to visit Israel and that the professional association should not be concerned with such a matter.

In any event, he noted, the legality of the existence of the present JBA executive council was under question in court. It was a reference to a suit filed by the Justice Ministry challenging the validity of JBA elections held in March since West Bank lawyers took part in the elections in violation of an instruction by the ministry. The lawsuit calls for the disbandment of the present council, which was elected in those elections. A court ruling is expected soon.

Noting that the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty was endorsed by the Jordanian Parliament, Mr. Zoubi told the press conference: "The peace treaty has become a law now, and it is those who do not obey the law who should be punished."

The majority of Jordanian people support the peace treaty, said the lawyer.

The action contemplated by the JBA against Mr. Zoubi is typical of the approach adopted by several professional associations which are members of the coalition against normalisation of relations with Israel.

The coalition has already taken several writers, journalists and artists to task for contacts with Israelis.

His Majesty King Hussein has implicity warned professional associations to stay away from politics and confine themselves to the immediate issues related to upgrading the status of the concerned professions and professionals.

During their visit to Israel, the Al Ahrar delegation members were received by Israeli President Ezer Weizman. They also toured the Israeli Knesset and a World War II museum dedicated to Jewish victims of Nazi Germany.

Mr. Zoubi said that during the team's meeting with Mr. Weizman he called for "building a new Middle East that will be to the benefit of all its people."

"The greatest honour in our era is to work for peace," Mr. Zoubi quoted himself as telling the Israeli president. "I'll shake hands on that," he quoted Mr. Weizman as replying.

Lebanon urged to stop wasting water

BEIRUT (AFP) — The Lebanese are being urged to stop wasting their water resources as fears rise that the precious commodity will be part of the price to pay for peace with Israel.

"Israeli intentions to appropriate Lebanese waters are no secret," Water and Electricity Minister Elias Hobeika said.

Bassam Jaber, an expert at the ministry, said that as much as 68 per cent of the 1.115 billion cubic metres of water Lebanon needs each year for drinking, irrigation and industry are wasted.

"This loss is because water is either wasted or the mains are old and need repairs," Mr. Jaber said.

Lebanon has taken part in the Middle East peace process since the launch in October 1991 but, along with Syria, it refuses to sit down with Israel at multilateral talks on regional issues such as water-sharing.

Officials here have ruled out negotiations on its water, saying Lebanon needs every drop for itself.

"We could be drawn into dangerous discussions with others unless we use our water efficiently," former Agriculture Minister Adel Cortas said.

"Water is a very precious resource which we simply cannot waste. The government must act quickly before it is too late," said Fady Comair, chairman of the state-run Litani water agency.

Lebanon is planning to increase the surface of its irrigated farmlands from 87,000 hectares to 127,000 hectares over 10 years, at a time when water is rationed in Beirut.

The International Fund for Agriculture Development is planning by the year 2002 to repair and improve irrigation canals in Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley as well as to build 25 irrigation pools.

Lebanon, with its 17 rivers, is "a real water tower and it must rationalise the use of its hydraulic resources," said Magid Slama, who is in charge of the project.

Along with Turkey, Lebanon is one of the rare regional states to have a water surplus while the others are said to be under the threshold of "water poverty" — 500 cubic metres per year per inhabitant.

Human rights unimproved in Mideast — Amnesty

LONDON (Agencies) — The human rights situation saw no improvement in 1994 in the Middle East and North Africa, Amnesty International said in its annual report published here.

"Under the protection of almost total impunity, governments and their forces continue to commit gross human rights violations," the report said, while accusing opposition movements in some countries of being guilty of abuses.

Arbitrary arrests, torture and killings were the norm in many countries, the international human rights organisation said, expressing concern also at the rise in judicial executions, notably in Saudi Arabia.

In Iraq, where the scope of the death penalty was widened significantly, "hundreds of executions are carried out every year," Amnesty said, while Iran executed at least 139 people.

The report said torture was common practice in at least 16 countries, including Israel, where in April a detainee died in custody as a result of torture during interrogation, and the newly autonomous Palestinian areas.

Extra-judicial executions by the security forces were reported from Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel and the occupied territories, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Yemen, Amnesty said.

The report noted that Lebanon had restored the death penalty after 11 years, though it was not carried out in 1994.

Amnesty stressed the responsibility of the Islamic fundamentalist opposition as well as the government for the deaths of hundreds of civilians in Algeria's civil war, while Kurdish groups in Iraq were blamed for "widespread human rights abuses, including torture and deliberate and arbitary killings."

Women's rights contained to be ignored in many countries, Amnesty said. Those who refused to wear the veil were killed by fundamentalists in Algeria, while the wives of Islamist political leaders in Tunisia were threatened and ill-treated by the authorities in Tunisia.

From Syria to the Israeli occupied territories, Amnesty cited horrific cases of torture.

Amnesty said Palestinian detainees were systematically tortured or ill-treated in Israel and the occupied territories.

"Methods used including hooding with dirty sacks, shackling in painful positions for prolonged period, beatings, sleep deprivation and confinement in dark, closet-sized cells," it said.

"Torture was also reported from the areas under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority ...," it added.

Amnesty said that in Syria favoured forms of torture were "falaqa" — beating on the soles of the feet — and "dullab," where the victim is suspended from a tyre and beaten with sticks and cables.

"New information was received about the torture and ill-treatment of Iraqi refugees in Rafha and Artawiyya camps in Saudi Arabia," Amnesty said.

Flogging and amputation were still imposed in Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates while amputation and branding were widely used in Iraq, it said.

Laywers and journalists were detained as prisoners of conscience in Egypt.

Amnesty said thousands of suspected government opponents were held in Iraq. Kurds were tortured and killed.

In Saudi Arabia, hundreds of suspected Sunni Islamist opponents of the government were arrested. Hundreds of political opponents of the government were arrested. Hundreds of political opponents were held in Libya without charge or trial.

"Appalling human rights abuses were committed by governments and their agents across the Middle East during 1994," it concluded.

Reconciliation proves elusive a year after Yemen's civil war

SANAA (AFP) — Yemen has started to emerge from its economic and diplomatic isolation but left national reconciliation for later, a year after holding on to its unity in the fire of battle.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh has consolidated his power, begun talks with international financial institutions and embarked on normalisation with Saudi Arabia which he had infuriated with his support for Iraq in 1990-1991.

But southern Yemen has been deprived of its own leadership since Mr. Saleh's northern-based forces captured Aden on July 7 after defeating socialist-led forces in a two-month civil war.

The Yemen Socialist Party (YSP), which had governed Aden since the former South Yemen gained independence from Britain in 1967, was ousted from the coalition government in Sanaa last October.

It was the price it paid for trying to secede from the 1990 union it had entered into with North Yemen.

The YSP, discredited by the defeat and its leaders' flight into exile, is only a shadow of its former self, diplomats said. Its 50 deputies in the 301-seat parliament have failed to shine or unite with other opposition groups.

"In my opinion, there is now nobody to represent the interests of the south," Sheikh Tareq Abdullah, a lawyer, said in Aden. "The YSP members who stayed in Yemen lack initiative and courage."

Not only have opposition calls for reconciliation fallen on deaf ears, but the authorities are still using the socialists as scapegoats, blaming the country's economic and other ills on them.

YSP members were detained following protests in March against price hikes for gasoline and services.

"In the last three months, people have been arrested for writing graffiti and distributing pamphlets," according to Ahmad Hussein Bilal, chairman of the official human rights organisation in Aden.

Yemen faces many dilemmas in trying to revive its economy.

After parliament last October reappointed him president for five years, Mr. Saleh raised prices and simplified exchange rates to meet calls for reform outlined by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

But the measures — which were to have been for five years and instead cut back to three years — were considered token gestures by a government fearful of political unrest, according to economists and bankers.

Mr. Saleh must also overcome objections from his coalition partner, the Islamic fundamentalist Al Islah, to cut subsidies on basic goods and deflate a bloated bureaucracy.

If he wants to attack the endemic corruption denounced by Al Islah, the president would have to alienate powerful businessmen, U.N. experts said.

And Yemen has little room for manoeuvre with a foreign debt of $8 billion and an inflation rate estimated at 65 per cent officially — at 150 per cent by U.N. experts.

Despite its June reconciliation with Saudi Arabia, Yemen does not expect Riyadh and Kuwait to renew aid or allow the same number of Yemenis to find jobs as in the past.

Only some of the 800,000 Yemenis expelled from Saudi Arabia in 1990 can expect to return to their jobs there.

These economic links were worth hundreds of millions of dollars annually for Sanaa.

Although it produces 380,000 barrels of oil per day, it is not enough to meet the needs of 15.8 million people.

Its only hope is the privatisation of southern companies and the creation of a free trade zone in Aden, but the zone is still only on the drawing board and the privatisation plan could be exploited by northerners.

"Privatisation will cause the north to buy up the south," a U.N. official warned.

Trial of brother of powerful Iranian resumes

NICOSIA (R) — The trial of a brother of one of Iran's most powerful men resumed in Tehran on Wednesday in one of the biggest fraud cases since Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution.

The Iranian news agency (IRNA) reported that Morteza Rafiqdoust appeared in court with five other men accused of defrauding state-run bank Saderat of 1,230 billion rials ($400) million at the official exchange rate) and "sabotaging in the country's economic system.

The first court session in what is believed to be the largest misappropriation of public funds since 1979 was held on June 29. Two other defendants are believed to be at large.

Mohsen Rafiqdoust, a senior Revolutionary Guards officer who runs Iran's biggest business conglomerate, is not involved in the trial of his brother Morteza.

But the case has generated wide interest as a challenge to the man who heads Bonyad-e-Mostazafan-va-Janbazan (the Foundation for the Deprived and war Disabled), an autonomous foundation that manages much of Iran's industry and services, and reports to Iran's supreme leader Ayatolah Ali Khamenei.

In an earlier report, IRNA quoted an Iranian member of parliament as telling Salam daily that the government was investigating charges of embezzlement of $15 million in the state tobacco company by a former director.

The deputy, named by IRNA only as Shafei, quoted Industry Minister Mohammad Reza Nematzadeh as saying during a debate in a parliamentary committee that the former official "had received large sums of commisions from foreign companies including $8.3 million and 9.3 million German marks."

"According to the minister, investigation has showed that the former head of the company spent some $100,000 on jewellery for his wife and his mother-in-law, purchased in Dubai, and parts of the sum for purchase of a house in Britain, over a period of seven years beginning 1985," IRNA reported.

Mr. Shafei quoted the minister as saying the case involved no other officials from the company. He said a large part of the money had been recovered.

Oslo call for sanctions on Iran gets little support

OSLO (AFP) — Norway has not received the international support it had hoped for in its attempt to impose global economic sanctions against Iran over the Salman Rushdie affair, the Norwegian foreign ministry said Wednesday.

Spokesman Kaare Eltervaag said the foreign ministry has held talks with several U.N. member countries, but "there is no desire for a boycott of Iran like the one we want," he said.

His statement came as Iran announced it was severing economic relations with Norway.

The move was in reaction to Norway's decision Monday to refrain from any further trade with Iran and to block new loans to the Persian state from the World Bank as well as its bid to join the Asia Bank. Norway said the economic sanctions were over the Iranian government's refusal to denounce the death edict against the British author.

Mr. Rushdie was sentenced to death by the late Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in 1989 in a "fatwa" or religious edict, for his book "The Satanic Verses," deemed blasphemous by many Muslims.

Foreign Minister Bjoern Tore Godal would not comment Wednesday on the lack of international support on the sanctions issue.

"Only South Africa has been exposed to such a broad economic boycott. Internationally, it is generally seen as a dramatic step to resort to trade sanctions," Godal told the Norwegian news agency NTB.

Norway on Monday had also announced that it was recalling its ambassador to Tehran, Birger Bye, and replacing him with a charge d'affaires.

Mr. Bye will return to Tehran at the beginning of next week to inform the Iranian authorities of the Norwegian position and perform the diplomatic procedures for terminating the mission, Mr. Eltervaag said.

But severing diplomatic ties with Iran was not planned, Mr. Godal said Wednesday.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Coptic pope: Jews no longer 'chosen people'

BEIRUT (AFP) — The Jews stopped being the "chosen people" with the advent of Christianity, the leader of Egypt's Coptic Christian church told Sunni Muslim leaders in the Lebanese capital. Pope Shenuda III, quoted in Beirut newspapers, also insisted that Jerusalem was an Arab city and said he would oppose its internationalisation. "We refute the thesis that the Jews are (God's) chosen people because with the advent of Christianity the words 'chosen people' became obsolete," he told a gathering of Sunni religious and political leaders on Tuesday. "It became illogical to pretend that God would abandon billions of his followers only to look after two or three million Jews," the pope said. "To those who stipulated the internationalisation of the Holy City, I answer that this would mean giving giving up its Arab identity," he said. "Jerusalem has been an Arab land since the 7th century." Pope Shenuda, leader of the Coptic Church which has between six and eight million members, arrived in Lebanon on Sunday for his first visit since 1972.

Greece rejects Turkish premier's claim

ATHENS (AFP) — Greece rejected as "unfounded and defamatory" allegations by Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller that Athens had backed the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK). Ms. Ciller "unfortunately reiterated... Turkish threats and repeated yet again well-known, unfounded and defamatory allegations against Greece," a statement by Greek government spokesman Evangelos Venizelos said. "Turkey must learn that this strategy of... exporting its domestic problems... constitutes a flagrant violation of international law and further alienates Europe and the West in general," Mr. Venizelos added. "The Greek stance is known and will be reiterated to all the international organisations, especially the U.N. and the European Union and to all foreign governments," Mr. Venizelos continued. Ms. Ciller told the parliamentary group of her True Path Party Tuesday: "Documentary evidence exists which proves Greece assists the PKK." Her remarks followed publication of photographs of Greek deputies shaking the hand of PKK chief Abdullah Ocalan in the Turkish newspaper Milliyet Monday.

Demirel appeals to Bulgaria over Kurds

SOFIA (R) — Turkish Preisdent Suleyman Demirel urged Bulgaria on Wednesday to take firm action against the banned Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), which he said had set up operations in Eastern Europe. "We know this terrorist organisation has moved its base for illegal activities (from Western) into Eastern European countries," Mr. Demirel said in a televised address to the Bulgarian parliament on the second day of a visit to Sofia. "We hope to continue cooperation with Bulgaria in the fight against terrorism in order to obstruct (the PKK's) efforts to put down roots in Bulgaria," he said. Mr. Demirel praised Bulgaria for respecting the rights of its ethnic Turk minority since the overthrow of the communism in 1989. Relations between Sofia and Ankara, historically frosty due to five centuries of Ottoman Turkish rule in Bulgaria and four decades of cold war enmity, have improved sharply in recent years. The communists had tried to assimilate Bulgaria's one million Turks by force during the 1980s.

'Iran opposition planned oil sabotage'

NICOSIA (R) — An Iranian agent who said he infiltrated the opposition Mujahedeen-e-Khalq group, was quoted on Wednesday as saying the Iraq-based group had planned to blow up an oil pipeline in southern Iran. "We were four people assigned to sabotage Iranian oil pipeline in Abadan," the Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Mohammad Hassani, an intelligence agent who it said had infiltrated the group, as saying. Abadan is the hub of Iran's oil pipeline network and site of the largest refinery in the country that is the world's largest oil exporter after Saudi Arabia. "We were sent from Iraqi city of Basra to carry out the operation, we were divided into two teams. I killed my accomplice, Habib Shati, but, the second team including Ramezan Zaree and Ali Kouhneshin had managed to explode one pipeline and escape before I could track them down," he said. In June 1993, the Mujahedeen claimed they had destroyed 11 pipelines and inflicted $100 million in damage. Iran denied the claim and issued a list of Mujahedeen raids in which it said a disused pipeline at Bahmanshir was attacked. It said one attacker was killed and two others, Shati and Mujtaba Kolahi, were arrested.

Choice of Canada envoy sparks criticism

OTTAWA (R) — Canada named a former politician, David Berger, as ambassador to Israel on Tuesday and the choice was immediately attacked as a political payoff. Mr. Berger resigned as a member of parliament in December to make way for a prominent French-Canadian politician to take his seat in Montreal and help fight separatists in the province in Quebec. He was subsequently hired by the office of Prime Minister Jean Chretien but it was widely rumoured that he would be named to a high-level diplomatic post. "Here we have a political hack with no diplomatic experience going into a very senstitive position as ambassador to Israel," said Bob Mills, a member of parliament for the opposition Reform Party. "This is too sensitive a posting in a conflict-prone region to be governed by domestic political considerations," the National Council on Canada-Arab Relations, a lobby group, said in a statement just before the announcement was made. A former lawyer, Mr. Berger replaces Norman Spector, who was a chief-of-staff to former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney before being appointed ambassador to Israel in 1992.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

13:30 ..... Iris-the Happy Professor
13:40 ..... Noddy
14:00 ..... Fireman Sam
14:30 ..... NBA
15:00 ..... Pirates Island
15:30 ..... Take Your Pick
16:00 ..... I Witness Video
17:00 ..... Tennis: Wimbledon 1995
19:00 ..... News in French
19:15 ..... Tennis: Wimbledon 1995
19:30 ..... News Headlines
19:35 ..... National Geographic
20:30 ..... The Album Show
21:15 ..... Murder She Wrote
22:00 ..... News in English
22:25 Feature Film: Murder of Innocence
22:59 ..... The Cracker

PRAYER TIMES

03:56 ..... Fajr
05:31 ..... (Sunrise) Duha
12:40 ..... Dhuhr
16:12 ..... 'Asr
19:50 ..... Maghreb
21:24 ..... 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifieh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terranucia Church Tel: 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 630851. Tel. 629543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church Tel 652526.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazarene Tel.675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures are expected to rise slightly becoming above averaged with winds northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

	Min./Max. temp.
Amman	20 / 33
Aqaba	26 / 40
Deserts	19 / 38
Jordan Valley	24 / 39

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Aqaba 38. Humidity readings: Amman 48 per cent, Aqaba 29 per cent

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Shtawi Abu Zayd ... 737962
Dr. Jamil Maraqah ... 776149
Dr. Khalil Abu Marjouh ... 779797
Dr. Nidal As'ad ... 751672
Firas pharmacy ... 661912
Ferdows pharmacy ... 778336
Al Asema pharmacy ... 637055
Nairukh pharmacy ... 623672
Al Salam pharmacy ... 636730
Yacoub pharmacy ... 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy ... 637660
Najih pharmacy ... 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Ali Al Shoqairi ... 236180
Alqads pharmacy ... (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Khalil Abu Hussein ... 985000
Khalifeh pharmacy ... 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ... 637111
Civil Defence Department ... 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue ... 638341
Civil Defence Emergency ... 199
Rescue Police ... 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade ... 617101
Blood Bank ... 775121
Highway Police ... 847402
Traffic Police ... 896391
Public Security Department ... 630321
Hotel Complaints ... 605000
Price Complaints ... 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints ... 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints ... 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ... 121
Overseas Calls ... 010240
Central Amman Telephone Repairs ... 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs ... 661101
Jordan Television ... 773111

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre ... 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amr ... 644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amr ... 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity ... 642362
Malhas, J. Amman ... 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani ... 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital ... 669131
University Hospital ... 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital ... 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali ... 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali ... 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen ... 777101/3
Al-Roshd, J. Ashrafieh ... 775111/26
Army, Marka ... 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital ... 602240/50
Amal Hospital ... 674155

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital ... (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital ... (09)980560
Ibn Sina Hospital ... (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital ... (09)990090

IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital ... (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital ... (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital ... (02)247100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital ... (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)532085, where it should always be verified

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:30 ..... Aden (RJ)
08:15 ..... Sanaa (RJ)
09:15 ..... Dhahran (add) (RJ)
10:00 ..... Riyadh (RJ)
10:15 ..... New Delhi (RJ)
10:30 ..... Beirut (RJ)
10:45 ..... Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
11:00 ..... Colombo (RJ)
12:00 ..... Jeddah (RJ)
17:35 ..... London (RJ)
18:30 ..... Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
19:00 ..... Dubai (add) (RJ)
19:15 ..... Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)
19:35 ..... Athens (RJ)
19:45 ..... Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)
20:00 ..... Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
21:00 ..... Rome (RJ)
22:45 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
00:30 ..... Larnaca (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

13:00 ..... Doha (QT)
13:40 ..... Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)
14:00 ..... Riyadh (SV)
17:00 ..... Rome (AZ)
18:45 ..... Paris, Damascus (AF)
17:00 ..... Paris, Damascus (AZ)
19:00 ..... Doha (QT)
21:10 ..... Beirut (ME)
21:30 ..... Dubai (EK)
22:30 ..... Cairo (MS)
23:20 ..... Istanbul (TK)
00:50 ..... London (KJ)
01:10 ..... Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:25 ..... Riyadh (add) (RJ)
05:45 ..... Dhahran (add) (RJ)
06:45 ..... Beirut (RJ)
07:00 ..... Jeddah (RJ)
11:45 ..... Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)
12:00 ..... Dubai (add) (RJ)
12:00 ..... Rome (RJ)
12:00 ..... Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
12:20 ..... Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
12:30 ..... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:55 ..... Paris (RJ)
13:00 ..... Athens (RJ)
13:15 ..... London (RJ)
13:15 ..... Cairo (RJ)
20:30 ..... Larnaca (RJ)
20:30 ..... Jeddah (RJ)
21:45 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
22:30 ..... Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)
22:45 ..... Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

08:45 ..... Beirut (ME)
13:30 ..... Damascus, Doha (QT)
14:30 ..... Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain, Muscat (GF)
14:30 ..... Algiers (AH)
15:20 ..... Riyadh (SV)
22:30 ..... Dubai (EK)
23:30 ..... Cairo (MS)
02:35 ..... Amsterdam (KL)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman ... 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus ... 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus ... 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman ... 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple	700/ 500
Apricot	550 / 350
Banana	680
Banana (Mukammar)	620
Cabbage	100 / 50
Carrot	240/150
Cauliflower	250/ 150
Cucumbers (large)	80 / 40
Cucumbers (small)	170 / 90
Eggplant	170/ 100
Garlic	600/450
Lemon	460 / 350
Marrow (large)	140 / 80
Marrow (small)	240 / 160
Mulukhia	130 / 80
Okra	800 / 600
Onion (dry)	170/ 100
Peaches	550/350
Pepper (hot)	300 / 200
Pepper (sweet)	200 / 120
Potato	360/ 200
String Beans	270 / 180
Sweet Melon	230 / 150
Tomato	240/150
Water Melon	100 / 50

VISIT TO SPECIAL SCHOOL: **His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday visits the military intelligence school and meets with senior army officers and the school commander. The Regent, who was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Rashed Ben Al Hassan, was briefed on the school's curricula and activities. He later toured the school's facilities. Also, at a meeting with officers, the Regent underlined the importance of information for the military institution and called for the need *to further strengthen cooperation among all the vocational and technical schools* run by the Jordan Armed Forces. The school commander presented Prince Rashed with the school shield (Petra photo)**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Regent congratulates Malawi president

AMMAN (Petra) – His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Wednesday sent a cable to Malawi President Hastings Banda congratulating him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government on his country's national day. Prince Hassan wished the president good health and happiness and the people of Malawi further progress and prosperity.

Sharif Zeid returns to Amman

AMMAN (Petra) – Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker on Wednesday returned home after joining His Majesty King Hussein on a visit to France. Sharif Zeid said King Hussein's visit and meeting with French President Jacques Chirac was very successful. He said the King's talks with Mr. Chirac covered bilateral relations and means of enhancing them, the Middle East peace proceess and issues of concern to the two countries. The Prime Minister said the French government expressed its readiness to help Jordan economically, noting that a meeting to discuss Jordanian debts toFrance will be held in Paris this month.

Prince Raad to open medical conference

AMMAN (Petra) – Under the patronage of Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Ben Zeid, honourary president of the Jordanian-French Medical Society, the fourth Jordanian-French medical conference will open at the Royal Cultural Centre Tuesday. The two-day conference in which 250 doctors from Jordan and France will participate, will discuss genetics and genetic diseases. The conference is organised by the society, which was established in 1990 by Jordanian doctors who studied in France or in French-speaking countries, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, the University of Jordan, the Jordan University of Science and Technology and several private sector hospitals.

Rawabdeh calls for monitoring department performance

AMMAN (Petra) – Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh Wednesday called for actively monitoring the performance of the Ministry of Education's various administrative departments and sections. Chairing a meeting of the ministry's planning committee, Mr. Rawabdeh stressed the importance of administrative control and inspection in guaranteeing the implementation of the strategies and plans drawn up by the ministry to develop the educational process. The acting premier called on the concerned authorities to study problems facing educational research and called for the advancement of administrative and financial regulations.

Bahraini officials visit social service centres

AMMAN (Petra) – Minister of Social Development Salwa Damen-Masri Wednesday met with a Bahraini delegation currently visiting Jordan to familiarise itself with the work of social service centres and development projects being carried out in the Kingdom. Ms. Damen-Masri commended bilateral relations between Jordan and Bahrain, especially in social work fields.

Srour calls for discussion on end to economic boycott

AMMAN (Petra) – The Lower House of Parliament's judiciary and financial committees will hold a joint meeting Thursday to discuss a law on ending the economic boycott of Israel. The meeting was called for by House Speaker Saad Hayel Srour. The House referred the draft law to the committees to present a report on it to the full House.

British envoy visits RSCN

AMMAN (Petra) – British Ambassador to Jordan Peter Hinchcliffe Wednesday voiced his country's willingness to support environmental projects carried out by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN). The ambassador, who was on a visit to the RSCN, met with Society Commissioner Issa Shahin and discussed with him scopes of cooperation between the society and similar British societies concerned with protecting nature and the environment. The two also discussed the prospect of exchanging expertise between RSCN and British societies. Mr. Shahin briefed the envoy on projects carried out by the society, with special emphasis on natural reserves in various parts of the Kingdom. The meeting was attended by World Bank representative Chris Johnson.

IAF appeals to Egypt, Sudan to end dispute

AMMAN (J.T.)– The Islamic Action Front (IAF) party Wednesday issued a statement expressing deep concern over the deterioration in relations between Egypt and Sudan and urged the governments in Khartoum and Cairo to end their dispute peacefully.The IAF is following with deep concern the developments between Egypt and Sudan after a war of words and trading of accusations and counter accusations in the wake of the abortive attempt on the life of the Egyptian president last week, said the statement made available to the Jordan Times.

Police arrest foreign suspect in international fraud cases

SALT (Petra) – Police in Salt Wednesday said they apprehended a foreign suspect in connection with acts of fraud in several countries. The suspect is said to have been the leader of an 11-member gang involved in those same operations. The gang allegedly earned more than $500,000 from their illegal activities, said Salt Police Director Brigadier Abdul Qader Ouran.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed times and places with the concerned institutions.

FILMS

* "Rembrandt: Painter of Man and the Restoration of the Night Watch," (with commentary in Arabic by Dr. Khalid Khreis) at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Luweibdeh on Thursday at 5:30 p.m.

* "Gettysburg (part II)," at the American Center on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

* "Bodas de Sangre" at the Instituto Cervantes on Thursday at 4:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Paintings by Jordanian Artist Muhammad Majali at the Phoenix Gallery of Culture and Art.

* Works by Iraqi artist Tahija Al Hakim at Ab'ad At Gallery.

* Exhibition demonstrating the development of cinema over the past century at the French Cultural Centre.

*Exhibition of works by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at Orfali Gallery

Deputies act [illegible] draft electricity, labour laws

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

Amman – The Lower House of Parliament on Wednesday referred a draft law on electricity to the House's Judiciary Committee, forwarded the Petra Bank case to the Prosecutor-General and heard heated argument over the right of workers to perform Friday prayers.

The draft law on electricity, which allows the conversion of the Jordan Electrical Authority (JEA) into a government-owned public shareholding company but abides by the company's law, drew conflicting reactions from deputies.

While some viewed its endorsement as part and parcel of the Kingdom's efforts to improve services in the country, others viewed it as a government [illegible] aimed at p[illegible] public comp[illegible] tutions in lin[illegible] national M[illegible] (IMF) polic[illegible]

"If we hav[illegible] proud of i[illegible] would be t[illegible] said Deput[illegible] teh.

"The go[illegible] tions and [illegible] acquired [illegible] that shou[illegible] to capital [illegible] state and [illegible] under th[illegible] investor[illegible]

Mr. [illegible] that pri[illegible] mental [illegible] becaus[illegible] describ[illegible] ment's [illegible] Jordan [illegible] work."

[illegible]nspiracy [illegible]tion of [illegible]nd insti[illegible] the Inter[illegible] Fund's [illegible]hing to be [illegible] country, it [illegible]lic sector," [illegible]n Sha'awa-

[illegible]ent's institu[illegible]nies are the [illegible] of the people [illegible] be entrusted [illegible] Otherwise the [illegible]tizen will be [illegible]cy of greedy [illegible] said.

[illegible]teh asserted [illegible]ion was detri[illegible] the country [illegible] what he [illegible] the govern[illegible]pt "to link the [illegible]electricity net[illegible]e Jewish net-

Deputy Nazeeh Amarin also criticised the draft law and said it would have negative implications on the country.

"Why do we try to limit services to one group that will monopolise it?" he said. "The draft law should be returned to the government."

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh refuted the charges and said the draft legislation was simply aimed at improving services offered to the public.

"We always hear that we are succumbing to the IMF...there are no other objectives desired from this draft other than our hope to upgrade and improve the level of services offered in electricity," Mr. Rawabdeh said.

The draft was referred to the Judiciary Committee with a show of hands.

The House also discussed the Petra Bank case which was raised by Deputy Fawwaz Zou'bi who demanded an answer to "all ambiguities" that revolve around the case.

The House referred the case to the prosecutor-general for investigations.

Another bone of contention among the deputies was the right of employees to perform Friday prayers if they were on duty during the weekend.

Islamist deputies strongly called for the inclusion of a phrase in Article 61 of the draft labour law that ensured the employees the right to perform Friday prayers.

The House voted down the Islamists proposal.

Deputy Hamzeh Mansour, spokesperson of the House's Islamic bloc said: "We are living in a Muslim country whose majority are Muslims. The law should give the right to the individual for free time to perform his/her prayers."

Leftist Deputy Mustafa Shneikat said that the inclusion of a phrase on the right to perform prayers was illogical since "religious rites are a private matter for the individual and should not be stipulated in the law."

Mr. Rawabdeh seconded the Islamists' proposal but he did not vote in favour of the motion.

The House has so far approved 66 articles out of the 145-article draft. Only seven articles were endorsed during Wednesday's session.

Ministry denies bake[illegible]s use harmful substance in [illegible]eads

AMMAN (J.T.) – The Ministry of Supply Wednesday denied a report in the local press that bakeries in Jordan are still using a powdery substance called "Chefaro" in the baking of bread.

"Chefaro" is said to be used to improve the quality of the bread.

Neither Chefaro nor any other harmful substance is being used by Jordanian bakeries, and the bread continues to be of very high quality, said a ministry statement.

The weekly newspaper Al Bilad last week published a report alleging that Jordanian bakeries were still using Chefaro in the bakeries.

Chefaro was banned in Jordan by the Ministry of Health in 1983 after it was found to be harmful to humans, said a statement which was issued following a meeting by concerned officials.

The report in the press was totally false and is considered harmful to both the public and bakeries in the Kingdom, said the state-

men[illegible]g the 1983 health min[illegible] statement banning the [illegible] Chefaro, the Min-istr[illegible] Supply circulated ins[illegible]ons to all gover-no[illegible] and districts requir-ing [illegible]eries to stop using th[illegible]stance.

[illegible]rding to Abdul Ilah H[illegible]vi, president of the J[illegible]ian Bakers Associa-ti[illegible] Chefaro was used in t[illegible]rly 1960s but was later b[illegible]d by authorities.

[illegible]lan has three factories [illegible] utilise 'improvers' in [illegible], especially white [illegible], but none use Chefaro [illegible]use other safe products [illegible]available and accredited [illegible]he health ministry, said [illegible] Hamawi.

[illegible]ccording to the state-[illegible]nt, the ministry has [illegible]eived no reports about [illegible]keries using Chefaro, nor [illegible] ministry inspectors in [illegible]y governorate receive any [illegible]mplaint to this effect, nor [illegible]at any bakery has violated [illegible]e regulations.

Any public complaint [illegible]vill immediately be investi-[illegible]gated, and violators will be

Ministry, World Bank to sign contract on plan to develop, protect Petra region

By Saed Silawi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN – Acting in cooperation with the World Bank, the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities is planning to sign a contract with a major consultancy firm to prepare a plan of action concerning the procedures to be taken for the development and protection of the ancient Petra region.

Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Abdul Ilah Khatib said in a statement to the Jordan Times Wednesday that the plan mainly focuses on infrastructure services, the classification of land and setting building specifications.

The plan is designed to protect the environment in the Petra region in view of its cultural, archaeological and economic importance for Jordan, said Mr. Khatib, noting that the ministry has already started improvements to the general services offered to visitors at various archaeological sites, including Petra.

Noting that basic services have been started at Um Qais and Petra, the minister expressed hope that the basic services work will be completed before the start of the second peak tourism season in November.

Mr. Khatib said two new tourism transport companies were licensed to enable Jordan to meet the needs of the rising number of tourists visiting the Kingdom.

He voiced hope that the two compnaies will be able to double the number of tourist buses operating in Jordan. The number now stands at 150 buses.

He said 20 per cent of the Jordanian proposals which will be presented to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit scheduled for October will be on tourism projects.

Mr. Khatib said the number of tourists coming to Jordan rose about 43 per cent in the first five months of 1995 compared to the same period last year, noting that 371,000 tourists visited the Kingdom in the first five months of this year. During the same period last year, he said, 259,686 tourists visited.

Comparing tourist figures between the first five months of 1995 and 1994, the minister focused on visitors from the U.S., Europe, and other countries. He said U.S. tourists numbered 38,444 in 1995 and 20,965 in 1994 (an increase of 83.7 per cent); European tourists numbered 127,242 (1995) and 79,428 (1994) (an increase of 60.2 per cent); visitors from other countries numbered 107,750 (1995) against 6,404 (1994) (an increase of 67.86 per cent).

Mr. Khatib added that the number of Israeli tourists visiting Jordan between Jan. 1 and June 1 this year totalled 44,210. Israelis were allowed to visit Jordan only after the two countries signed a peace treaty last October, thus ending a decades-old conflict.

Seminar to p[illegible]be risks of mass tourism, seek promotion of eco-tourism

Amman (J.T.) The Friedrich Naumann Foundation i[illegible] cooperation with its partner the Jordan Environmen[illegible] Society will conduct a semi[illegible]nar entitled "Tourism and it[illegible] Repercussions on Sustain[illegible]able Development", a sta[illegible]ment from the foundatio[illegible] said Wednesday.

The event is to take plac[illegible] on July 10 at the Philadel[illegible]phia Hotel, and all aspect[illegible] of the new era of tourism i[illegible] the country will be dis[illegible]cussed, according to the statement.

Tourism is one of the most promising economic activities, generating about 15 per cent of the global turnover, the statement said

Most tourists still go to Europe which had 230 million arrivals in 199[illegible], while long distance tourism to the Americas and Asia is still fashionable, it said.

According to the foundation, Africa and the Middle East only receive limited numbers of tourists, because of poor infrastructure, political instability, and civil wars.

The statement added that this indicates that tourism provides a very unstable source of income as, apart from political instability, economic recession, climate conditions and fluctuating exchange rates can also negatively affect tourism.

Other disadvantages, it said, include the fact that 50 per cent of the gross tourism revenues to the developing world leak out of the country.

International airlines, tourist agents and hotel chains are making the big profit, the foundation claimed.

Nevertheless, the statement pointed out, many developing countries, with poor resources, are putting much hope into tourism and are investing large sums in the upgrading and expansion of the touristic infrastructure, as is now happening in Jordan, where a series of new hotels are being constructed in the Petra area and along the Dead Sea.

Despite the encouraging increase in tourists activities in Jordan, the statement said, tourism is still a high-risk economic performance. Just one big flare-up of hostility and xenophobia, some terrorist attacks on foreign tourists, some killings, and a whole trade may collapse overnight, as has occurred in Algeria, Egypt, Turkey and in some African and Asian countries, the statement noted.

To cope with increasing tourism, the principles of eco-tourism are increasingly being applied in many countries, it added.

Eco-tourism (nature tourism, or "soft tourism" as it is also called) is defined as: "Travelling to relatively undisturbed or uncontaminated natural areas with the specific objective of studying, admiring, and enjoying the scenery and its wild plants and animals as well as any existing cultural manifestations, both past and present, found in these areas" according to the statement.

In this aspect, of course, Jordan has good potentials, as some unique landscapes and cultural monuments are gathered here, the statement said.

According to Friedrich Nauman Representative Walter Rüdell, eco-tourism is certainly the right thing to promote in developing countries, and as it is a growth industry, the market comes to the producerwithout needing much investment. It further it helps in diversifying the economic growth of the country, stimulating economic activity and growth in isolated, remote and rural areas, Mr. Rüdell said.

But eco-tourism needs good management and well trained staff, as the "ecological carrying capacity" must be strictly observed, he warned.

Without applying tolerable levels of visitation, Mr. Rüdell observed, the fragile environment may be hurt, and visitors, who are usually more educated and demanding than the normal "sun and surf-tourist" may be repelled.

Wadi Rum

Mass tourism destroys tourism, a fact which is noticed in many first categories of tourist sites all over the world, he said.

This danger, he added, may threaten future tourism to Petra and the Dead Sea areas where visiting numbers are already very high and no eco-tourism infrastucture, so far, exists.

Jordan's economy needs tourism, but it should be a tourism which does not endanger nature and the human environment, and it should not be based on luxurious, expensive international tourism only, according to Mr. Rüdell.

Low and medium-priced facilities for internal tourism are a must, because national tourism is generating considerably more money worldwide, and as international travelling is becoming more and more a burden, it may in the long-run decrease, he said.

The global destruction of nature is also limiting tourism potentials, Mr. Rüdell added. He said, people investing in the tourism sector should be aware of these risks, and they should try to contain them by acting accordingly.

The foundation statement said that the seminar will "try to give a push into the right direction."

U.N. weighs risks f Sarajevo aid route

Sarajevo continues to suffer under Serelling

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — The United Nations weighed the options for its tenuous aid supplies to Sarajevo on Wednesday with France saying a new rapid reaction force could be ready soon to open a road to the Bosnian capital by force.

"If nothing has moved in the next few days regarding access to Sarajevo, we will clearly have to take action to restore a more normal life for Sarajevo residents," France's armed forces chief, Admiral Jacques Lanxade, told Radio France.

In Geneva, U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali said he was determined the 10,000-strong rapid reaction force would be used to reinforce the United nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the former Yugoslavia, not to prepare them for a withdrawal.

"I will do everything in my power to maintain UNPROFOR in Bosnia, because I believe that a pullout would aggravate the situation and make more difficult not only our diplomatic efforts but also our humanitarian operations," he added.

French U.N. troops, ignoring Bosnian Serb threats, began driving trucks at night over the treacherous Mount Igman route to Sarajevo four days ago — coming under attack from the Serb forces laying siege to the Bosnian capital.

A French soldier was wounded by shrapnel when Serbs targetted a convoy with machine gun fire on Tuesday, compelling the U.N. troops to respond with a mortar and anti-tank fire.

Mr. Lanxade said the reinforcements of the rapid reaction force would be ready as early as this weekend to beef up the U.N. peacekeeping and humanitarian effort — if necessary forcing a way to Sarajevo.

Dr. Ghali said the Franco-British-Dutch reaction force, with U.S. logistical support, had been set up to provide a means to respond to attacks on UNPROFOR. It was set up shortly after almost 400 U.N. personnel were taken hostage by Bosnian Serbs.

Since the hostages' release, there have been growing suggestions from the Muslim-led government that the U.N. should lift its arms embargo, pull out and give government troops free rein to fight the rebel Bosnian Serbs.

In Sarajevo the war of attrition went on with the steady count of deaths ticking ever upwards.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) warned of mounting civilian casualties and the potential for disease in the besieged city.

There were overnight infantry battles in the western front-line suburb of Nedzarici, which borders the U.N.-controlled airport, said U.N. spokesman Gerard Dubois.

In shelling of Sarajevo Tuesday that continued into Wednesday morning, four civilians were killed and 17 wounded, according to the Bosnian Health Ministry. At least two people were killed in Serb-held parts of the city, according to Bosnian Serb media.

Stephane Simmonds, the WHO's special envoy to Bosnia, said health conditions were rapidly deteriorating and warned that civilian casualties could rise in Sarajevo as the Bosnian government army presses an offensive to crack the Serb siege of the city.

During June, 144 civilians were killed and 608 wounded in the city from shelling as normal," she said.

"The real danger is that the international community regards these figures as normal," she said.

Since Serbs cut off utilities, including running water, Sarajevo residents have faced a new threat: cases of severe diarrhoea have increased three-fold in recent weeks.

"The shortage of water is a threat to the health of the entir said, adding that was running out of fication tablets.

For e in several days, cekeepers were a three convoys a nly access road i evo over Mount uring the night wi ing under Serb fire

But on ay morning, two armoured vehicles n came under ant and mortar fire fr positions. There were es, U.N. officials sa

During small arms rounds tly fired by Serbs, hi gs outside the Fre compound, said ubois, the U.N. sp

Outside Sa ghting erupted near t town of Travnik t 50 kilometres no f the capital, anothe okesman, Col. G ard, said.

In the north ihac pocket, fightin ued between govern ces and troops loyal bel Muslim leader, C ard said. Governmen detained a unit of shi peacekeepers, and ficials were negot or their release.

MOROCCO TIGHTENS ITSELF: A Moroccan couple chats in a secluded area of the capital Rabat to avoid police. A campaign to fight criminality, which was launched several weeks ago, has been criticised by the Moroccan opposition press as an abu of authority as couples are asked by police o produce their marriage certificates when st pped in a public place. Single women, arrested in the street, are often considered 'prostitutes' (AFP photo)

Bhutto denies being pro-U.S. at Iran's expense, assails India

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan has said in remarks published Wednesday that Pakistan's relations with Iran remain strong despite her recent visit to the United States.

She accused the press in India, Pakistan's neighbour and arch-rival, of "mischievously" misinterpreting the April visit by reporting that Pakistan is becoming increasingly pro-U.S. at the expense of its traditional ties with Iran, a fellow Islamic nation.

"The assumption that our policies are increasingly pro-U.S. and our relations with Iran are deteriorating is totally misplaced," she said in an interview with the Star newspaper, published a day before she begins a three-day visit to Malaysia.

"Our Iranian brothers do not need the Indian media to interpret our intentions," Mrs. Bhutto said, adding that ties with Iran continue to be strong.

During her visit, Mrs. Bhutto said, she will discuss with Prime Minister Mahathiry Mohammad the issue of Kashmir, the focus of Pakistan's enmity with India.

The two nations are locked in a warlike dispute over the Himalayan region. India accuses Islamic Pakistan of aiding and arming secessionist guerrillas in the Muslim-majority Kashmir. Pakistan says it only supports them morally in their struggle for self-determination.

The two nations have fought two wars over Kashmir that left one-third of the territory in Pakistan's hands and the rest with India, now struggling to keep it under control.

Pakistan has courted Muslim-majortiy Malaysia for decades to give it support in its claims over Kashmir, but with little success.

Colombian leader vows to continue drug fight

BOGOTA (R) — Colombian President Ernesto Samper hailed the capture of Cali cartel leader Jose Santacruz Londono Tuesday as a major triumph for the country and vowed to continue his fight against drug trafficking.

"(It is) an unquestionable triumph for Colombian authorities," a statement from the presidential palace quoted Mr. Samper as saying. "In this way, the government will continue to pursue with firmness and decision the complete dismantling of the criminal organisation."

Police chief General Rosso Jose Serrano Cadena told a news conference his men caught Mr. Santacruz, the third most important leader of the cartel, Tuesday evening in a steak restaurant a couple of blocks away from the chief's apartment in a northern neighbourhood of Bogota.

Gen. Serrand said one of his bodyguards spotted Mr. Santacruz eating with three other people at the Carbon De Palo Restaurant and quickly notified him by cellular telephone.

"It was a two-minute operation," he said. "We got him out of the restaurant and he said: 'Take it easy. It's me.'"

The drug lord and the three men were unarmed and did not resist arrest, he added.

Wearing a dark blue denim jacket and pale blue jeans, a greying Santacruz sat calmly in a chair before photographers at police headquarters amid a flurry of camera flashes.

He sported a small moustache rather than the beard he had been shown wearing in a photograph on the widely-distributed poster, which off $574,000 cash reward formation leading to ture.

Mr. Santacruz, 51, is dered the architect global drug smuggling works of the cartel, controls about 80 per c the cocaine smuggled in United States.

A legend in the Lati minal world in the U States, he is wanted for trafficking and mo laundering in Los Ange Miami and New York.

3 killed ahead of Karachi peace talks

KARACHI, Pakistan (R) — At least three people were killed and nine wounded in Karachi violence Wednesday on the eve of scheduled peace talks between the Pakistani government and the ethnic Mohajir National Movement (MQM), police said.

They said police also fought a gunbattle with unidentified attackers who had fired at and damaged their armoured personnel carrier in Korangi Number 2 Industrial Area.

There were no immediate reports of casualties, but gunmen wounded a police assistant sub-inspector in a nearby district of Korangi. Police said three people had been killed and nine wounded in gunfire elsewhere in the port city of 12 million.

MQM sources in Islamabad could not confirm that the talks would start as planned Thursday, saying they hoped the government would make conciliatory gestures in advance.

"We want them to call off the operation in Orangi town (in Western Karachi) and stop the hostile media campaign against MQM chief Altaf Hussain," said a senior MQM source, who asked not to be named.

The source said pressure from the security forces had disrupted lower tiers of the MQM and had given armed criminals a free hand in MQM-dominated areas.

"We know the identity of every gunman in Karachi and can control the city if we have the government's support," he said.

Elected MQM members of the Sind provincial assembly should be involved in keeping the peace once the government had responded to MQM demands, the source added.

The MQM wants its jailed members released, cases against its leaders dropped and an end to what it sees as harassment by the security forces and discrimination in jobs and education.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has blamed much of the violence on what she calls a terrorist wing of the MQM and says the group must give up its guns and turn in wanted militants.

Police and paramilitary Rangers have been besieging an alleged band of MQM militants in western Karachi's sprawling Orangi town, parts of which have been sealed off for days.

The government has shown a series of televised "confessions" of detained MQM figures, including Senate member Zabid Akhter, in which they accuse the MQM of a variety of crimes.

Last week the government disconnected all mobile telephone services in Karachi, saying armed militants were misusing them.

Violence has eased since the MQM announced Monday that it had agreed to talks with the government, aimed at ending bloodshed that has cost more than 950 lives this year.

The newspaper industry called off a strike planned for Wednesday after the Sind government lifted a ban on six Karachi evening papers accused of sensationalised reporting.

The provincial authorities had suspended the Urdu-language newspapers for 60 days last Thursday.

Stockbrokers welcomed the peace moves with a rally on Wednesday which lifted the Karachi 100-share index through the 1,600-point barrier to close 1.59 per cent higher.

An MQM spokesman said Wednesday peace talks between the Pakistani government and the MQM are unlikely to start Thursday as planned.

Gunmen reportedly kill some 40 people in Burun

BUJUMBURA (R) — Gunmen killed about 40 people in a rash of attacks over the past few days in Burundi, state radio and a foreign aid worker said.

Burundi Radio said Tuesday night 24 people were reported killed Monday night by gunmen who attacked Gasorwe village in northern Gahombo district.

Several people were killed in an ambush about 32 kilometres south of Bujumbura when an "armed group" opened fire on traffic on the road between the capital and Rutovu near Nyabiraba town, it added.

The term "armed group" is usually used by the state-run media to refer to Hutu guerrillas, said by aid workers to have stepped up their attacks in the countryside over the past two months.

One foreign aid worker, who declined to be identified, said Wednesday at least 14 people were killed in two separate attacks Sunday in the northern province of Kayanza by gunmen identified by residents as members of the Palipehutu Movement.

The worker, who on a trip through the province saw nine of the dead, said at least five people were killed in an attack on a minibus south of the town of Kayanza. Nine more were killed when guerrillas attacked army posts in Kayanza town.

Killings increased outside the capital as thousands of Hutu men, women and children forced from their homes in a suburb of Bujumbura by two weeks of conflict started trickling back into the city.

Palipehutu, the Parti De Liberation Du Peuple Hutu, is one of the main Hutu militant armed groups in Burundi, torn by ethnic bloodletting since the assassination of its first freely-elected Hutu president in October 1993 by renegade soldiers.

An estimated 50,000 members of the Tutsi minority a Hutu majority were butc ered in two months followi the killing of President Me chior Ndadaye. Tens thousands have been kille since then.

The British charity Oxfa called Tuesday for an urgen meeting of the Organisatio of African Unity and United Nations to defuse a looming crisis in Burundi and neighbouring Rwanda.

Oxfam said only a regional conference could help defuse the tension in Burundi and Rwanda, where up to an estimated one million Tutsis and Hutu moderates were killed in genocide last year.

1,000 reportedly die in Rwanda prison

NAIROBI (Agencies) — A thousand people have died in a jail in Rwanda where doctors are amputating the rotting feet of prisoners forced to stand in filth day and night, Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF — Doctors Without Borders) said Wednesday.

"We are seeing an increase in serious wounds and burst eardrums from beatings" in the Gitarama Prison, in central Rwanda, said medical coordinator Arnaud Veisse, blaming the violence on extremists among the Hutu prisoners facing war crime charges.

"There are even wounds from human bites," he said. "If an epidemic breaks out, there is no saying how many will die."

The charity, which described the "inhuman conditions" in the jail at a press conference in Nairobi, said the 7,000 prisoners in the facility, built for 400, each had less than half a square metre (yard) of space.

A total of 992 prisoners died there between September and the end of June of illnesses such as dysentry and pneumonia, festering wounds — including bites — and physical violence, it said, urging the transfer of inmates to other centres.

The prisoners are awaiting trial on charges of committing genocide in last year's civil war, when Hutu extremists slaughtered more than half a million Tutsis, moderate Hutus and their families before losing to a Tutsi rebel army.

None has been sentenced, though, because many magistrates and court officials died in the war, and the justice system is paralysed.

MSF said that ill prisoners were having to share beds in the nearby Kabyagi hospital, where 41 per cent of the inmates admitted were suffering from rotting feet and 38 per cent from trauma wounds.

A quarter of the 700 admitted to the hospital since September had died, with the other deaths occurring in the prison itself, MSF said.

Some patients asked to return to the prison so they could die faster, and others wanted to return to make sure they kept their tiny space.

MSF doctors are having to amputate many of the prisoner's feet, which go rotten after the inmates stand for days and months in filth in conditions so crowded that they cannot even sit down, the charity said.

The Rwandan government has announced that it will open seven new detention centres for the 50,000 prisoners awaiting trial on genocide charges, and an extension is planned for Gitarama prison, which MSF says is the worst in the country.

The extension will only improve conditions if some of the prisoners are transferred to other centres, MSF said.

"It is crucial that the extension not be filled with new detainees — this would only increase the alarming mortality rate."

Meanwhile, Rwanda's government and the United Nations meet Thursday in an attempt to discuss foreign aid but officials said donors want the festering problem of two million refugees still in exile to be solved.

The talks will review the flow of aid to Rwanda since January, when up to $700 million was pledged by donors, only $134 million of which has been disbursed to the impoverished government.

The U.N. Development Programme representative in Kigali, Sukehiro Hasegawa, said he expected further pledges of aid at this week's talks.

This would reflect restored confidence in the government since the massacre of thousands of Hutus by state troops in the camp of Kibeho in April.

"It (the review) should result in increased pledges," Mr. Hasegawa told Reuters. "If they increase, it would be a clear demonstration of confidence in the policies followed by the government of Rwanda post-Kibeho."

The European Union (EU), Belgium and the Netherlands suspended aid following April's forced closure of Kibeho refugee camp, where conditions degenerated into bloody chaos.

The government was vindicated by an investigation carried out by an international commission, which concluded that excessive force was used by the army but that the massacre was unintentional.

Mr. Hasegawa expected most aid would be promised to programmes covering the repatriation of refugees, an area that received minimal funds at the original talks and which some donors say is now their priority.

The Hutu refugee camps in Zaire, Burundi and Tanzania are costing the international community $2 million a day.

EU representative Achim Kratz said: "The European Union is paying a lot of money for the refugees in the camps — $400,000 a day in Tanzania — and we are running out of funds."

Rwanda's delegation, headed by Prime Minister Faustin Twagiramungu, will be keen to prove their government is doing as much as it can to encourage the refugees to return home.

Ex-Japan premier Fukuda dies aged 90

TOKYO (R) — Former Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda, known for foreign closed relations with China and working to heal the wounds of Japan's wartime past, died Wednesday from lung disease at the age of 90.

Officials from the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) said the ex-LDP premier died of emphysema.

Fukuda who held office from 1976 to 1978, is best known overseas for signing a landmark peace treaty with China and for pledging that Japan would never again become a military power.

The so-called "Fukuda Doctrine" is credited with fostering reconciliation between Japan and Asian nations which suffered at the hands of the Japanese military during World War II.

"He left behind major achievements, including his Fukuda Doctrine pledge that Japan would never again become a military power," Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama said in a statement. "He will be missed."

At home, he is best remembered as one of the LDP's legendary "warlords" who fought long and bitter internecine battles with other party bosses in the 1970s and 1980s. Until 1993, the LDP had a stranglehold on power.

The 1978 treaty of peace and friendship with China normalised ties between the two Asian powers and opened Japan's aid coffers for Beijing's modernisation programme.

In the 1977 "Fukuda Doctrine," he pledged Japan would never again become a military power and would work for broader ties with South East Asian nations. The declaration has formed the basis of Japan's policy towards South East Asia ever since.

And like so many other Japanese prime ministers, he was dogged by trade disputes with the United States, mostly on textiles and steel.

With a brilliant political career behind him, Mr. Fukuda had long been considered a contender for the premiership, but he took over only in 1976 after the resignation of Takeo Miki.

At the time, the country was going through the traumas of the Lockheed bribery scandal, in which the American aircraft company paid out $5 million to Japanese politicians and business executives to promote the sales of its planes.

Kakuci Tanaka, a former premier and leading LDP member, was among those convicted of taking bribes from Lockheed. Mr. Tanaka was Mr. Fukuda's political arch-rival and a feud between them, known as the "Kaku-Fuku war," was an important element of Japanese politics in the 1970s and 1980s. The "war" continued until 1985 when Mr. Tanaka was incapacitated by a stroke.

Fukuda lost power in 1978 to another rival, Masayoshi Ohira, in an election for LDP president, a post which in those days guaranteed the premiership.

Fukuda continued to attend international conferences and at the age of 78, in 1983, organised the first meeting in Vienna of former presidents and prime ministers, dubbed the "OB (old Boys) summit."

Fukuda was born on Jan. 14, 1905 to a wealthy farming family in Gunma, northwest of Tokyo.

In 1929, he graduated in law from the prestigious Tokyo University and passed tough entrance examinations to both the Bank of Japan and the Finance Ministry. He chose the ministry.

In the following year, he was appointed financial secretary to the Japanese embassies in London and Paris and he remained a civil servant throughout the war years.

In 1952, he was elected to parliament as an independent and two years later joined the Democratic Party, which merged with the Liberal Party to become the LDP in 1995. He served variously as finance minister, foreign minister, agriculture minister and head of the economic planning agency.

He is survived by his wife Mie, three sons and two daughters. His eldest son Yasuo is an LDP lawmaker.

Fast food chain pulls ads from 'Last Supper'

STOCKHOLM (AP) — A fast-food advertisement featuring Jesus in "the Last Supper" was removed from billboards and newspapers Tuesday, and the restaurant apologised to the public. "I understand if this has aroused offense among Christians. For that I apologise," said Rolf Lundstrom, acting managing director of the Swedish-owned hamburger chain Clock. Individuals and even curators from Sweden's state art museum complained about the use of the Leonardo Da Vinci's 1495 fresco, "The Last Super." The advertisment shows only the face and chest of Jesus over the chain's slogan, "Number One Meal." Mr. Lundstrom said the restaurant received letters from individuals complaining about the 2-week ad campaign that included billboards mainly in railway stations. The chain, which also sells pizzas in a joint venture with U.S.-based Pizza Hut, invested about a third of its annual advertising budget in the campaign, Mr. Lundstrom said. "Our next campaign will be more product-oriented," Mr. Lundstrom told the Swedish News Agency (TT).

Italy to try to save ancient temples from modern ruins

ROME (AP) — Italy has decided to try to keep modern construction from ruining a complex of some of the most magnificent ancient Greek temples outside Greece. The Cultural Ministry will crack down on illegal building encroaching on the edges of Agrigento's Valley of Temples, one of Sicily's biggest tourist attractions. Greek archaeologists had appealed to the Italian government to do something about the ugly sprawl of housing and businesses on land that technically is part of an archaeological park and shouldn't be developed, the Italian News Agency (AGI) reported. Eventually, the ministry hopes to remove some 600 illegal buildings. But with Italy's chronically paltry budget for cultural projects, money to compensate owners for demolished property will likely be slow in coming.

Tortoises saved by sticking neck out

PARIS (AFP) — Customs officials rescued 152 rare tortoises smuggled on board a plane from North Africa after spotting a tiny head stuck between the wooden boards of a container, officials said Tuesday. The "graeca graeca" animals, a breed threatened with extinction and banned from export under international convention, had been stowed inside a container of pottery from Tunisia, a statement said. After a sharp-official spotted one sticking its neck out to see what was around, the container was opened to find eight tortoises already overcome with exhaustion. The remaining animals were seized and transported to a tortoise sanctuary in the region, to recover from their cargo-hold ordeal.

Engrossed robbers locked into office

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Four robbers were so engrossed in ransacking a grocery store that they didn't notice the owner of an adjacent shop creep in and lock them in, police said. The good Samaritan then called the police, who arrested the thieves just as they were trying to knock down the door, a police official said. The shop owner, who was not identified, discovered the robbers after hearing drilling noises early Monday morning in his neighbour's shop before it had opened for business. He investigated and found a hole big enough for a man to crawl through in the rear wall of the shop. Inside, the thieves were rummaging through the manager's office. The shop owner stepped into the hole and locked the office door, said Assistant Police Commissioner Yap Ah Kau. The robbers had stacked medicines, canned food and other goods worth about 10,000 ringgit ($4,081) to be loaded into a van parked at the back. Mr. Yap said two of them had a total of 16 previous theft convictions and another had been recently released from prison for robbery. They will be charged in court later.

Business

business daily beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

No rise in bread prices

The Ministry of Supply stressed that bread prices in Jordan will remain unchanged despite the rises in the price of the commodity on the international markets. The reserves also emphasised that Jordan has enough quantities of flour. Ministry sources said in statements to the Jordan news agency that the total flour stored at the work at the beginning of this week is a supervisory panel formed by Prime First Court to run the affairs of the mill, which is a daily production capacity of 450 tonnes. The sources expect the price of bread to remain stable over the past months. They added that the ministry distributes 250,000 tonnes of flour annually to bakeries in the Kingdom's real needs are estimated at [illegible] Dessour

The story of Jordan's sources said there was a noticable rise in the number of violations of supply laws chosen by the ministry's inspectors in all parts of Jordan during June. The inspectors issued 45 warnings during June, compared to [illegible] month before. Al [illegible]

The Ministry of Supply's grain [illegible] purchased about 25,000 tonnes of wheat from farmers since the beginning of the agricultural season and until June 27. The commission also bought about 13,000 tonnes of barley and 151 tonnes of lentils during the same period (Al Rai).

The national air carrier, Royal Jordanian (RJ), has transported 104,[illegible] passengers last June, compared to 101,187 passengers in June 1994. This reflected an increase of about 3.2 per cent in the number of passengers. The airliner also transported [illegible] tonnes of goods during the same month, compared to [illegible] tonnes in June the previous year, meaning a 20.1 increase in the volume of cargo transported by RJ (Al Rai).

Nine working papers will be presented by Jordan at the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit which will be held in Amman in October. The topics of these papers were determined by a committee of the national panel entrusted with preparing for the summit. The committee, made up of representatives of the private sector, decided in its recent meeting, which was chaired by Thabet Al Taher, to finalise these working papers before the end of July. The papers will be prepared in accordance with the following principles: working with team spirit to promote investment opportunities in the Kingdom, opening Jordan for business and establishing a regional centre to cater for these needs (Al Aswaq).

Heavy equipment moves in on the site of the Sampoong Department Store collapse disaster, as hopes fade for any survivors among the almost 400 listed as missing in the rubble (AFP photo)

Seoul proposes tougher laws; collapse toll rises

SEOUL (AP) — Legislators began considering tighter safety regulations Wednesday as workers searched around the clock for bodies in the rubble of a ritzy department store.

Six days after the collapse, hopes of finding survivors had virtually vanished. Doctors say it is rare for people to live more than three days without water.

Overnight, 10 more bodies were found, raising to 128 the confirmed death toll in one of South Korea's worst peacetime disasters. More than 300 people are listed as missing.

About 70 people were rescued alive — the last on Saturday — and more than 900 were injured, many seriously. Officials worried that the summer heat may make it increasingly difficult to identify decomposed bodies.

With concerns over possible disease rising, workers wore masks and used disinfectant on the jumble of concrete and iron bars.

One city government official, arrested Monday, reportedly confessed he had received "millions of won" (thousands of dollars) for overlooking illegal changes in design and construction at the Sampoong Department Store.

Local newspapers quoted Chung-Ji-Hwan, 39, as telling police that he and other city officials were involved in the 1989 approval of the store's illegal addition of a fifth floor and expansion of the fourth floor.

Nine city officials went into hiding after a joint team of prosecutors and police expanded its probe of the store's collapse. They were suspected of taking bribes from the store.

Opposition parties, raising accusations of inefficiency, promised to step up an anti-government offensive during the 11-day National Assembly session that opened Wednesday.

In an opening address, Speaker Hwang Nak-Ju chided the government for not taking enough anti-disaster measures.

"The Sampoong Department Store accident does not mean that a simple building has collapsed," he said. "The Republic of Korea's honour, dignity and credibility has collapsed before the whole world."

The one-house assembly was to consider new laws proposed by the government calling for tighter safety regulations and heavier penalties for construction-related accidents.

The government is under intense public fire for not keeping promise after promise to take measures to prevent the recurrence of major public works accidents that have rocked the country in less than a year.

A major bridge in Seoul collapsed last October, killing 21 people. Two gas explosions earlier this year killed 143 people.

Criticism also mounted over the prosecution's decision to file negligence charges against four store executives, which carry relatively light penalties — a fine of up to 3 million won ($3,900) and a prison term of up to three years.

The proposed new laws call for a maximum of life imprisonment for slipshod construction that results in heavy casualties.

Police say the four store executives knew for hours that the building was shaky and its top floor was crumbling before one of its two five-story wings caved in on more than 1,000 people.

Initial investigations showed that along with the additions, which could have caused extra stress, the building used substandard construction materials, including sea sand which contained more than the permissible level of salt content, investigators said.

The store's main pillars were also found to have used fewer and smaller reinforing steel bars, investigators said.

Among the missing were Frank Bakes, an American plant engineer from New Jersey, and a 35-year-old French businessman who went to the store to negotiate a cheese deal.

Sri Lankan Air Force raids rebel targets

COLOMBO (AFP) — The Sri Lankan Air Force raided rebel targets in the north of the country as part of a renewed campaign against Tamil separatists, officials said Wednesday.

Air force planes bombed positions of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in Kilinochchi on the mainland and Vadamarachchi on the northern Jaffna peninsula Monday and Tuesday, travellers said.

However, they were unable to provide details of casualties or damage caused. A military spokesman confirmed there had been air attacks without giving further details.

In one raid Monday, a fishermen went missing after his boat was hit and set ablaze off the northern coast, travellers told residents in the government-held northern Vavunia town.

Large parts of the north are under LTTE control with the Jaffna peninsula the main rebel stronghold.

The air strikes came as the navy destroyed four Tamil rebel boats off the northern Point Pedro coast Monday, causing an unspecified number of LTTE casualties, military officials said. One sailor was wounded in the clashes.

The LTTE's clandestine Voice of Tigers radio said three LTTE cadres were killed in battles with security forces in the northeast Tuesday.

The military claimed killing four. But Tamil sources said troops shot dead another LTTE fighter trying to infiltrate army defences in Vavuniya.

Fighting has worsened in the northeast since the LTTE ended a three-month old truce in April to resume its campaign for an independent Tamil state in the region.

Japan cult guru indicted on new murder charges

TOKYO (R) — The guru of a doomsday cult was indicted on new murder charges Wednesday over the strangulation of a follower, adding to the charges he already faces for the March 20 nerve gas attacks on Tokyo's subway.

Shoko Asahara's indictment came as Tokyo was recovering from the latest spate of gassing incidents which police and top government officials suspect were carried out by his Aum Shinri Kyo (Aum Supreme Truth) sect.

The latest indictment stems from the January 1994 death of 29-year-old Kotaro Ochida, who had tried to quit the cult and rescue the confined mother of a fellow follower.

Mr. Asahara's wife, Tomoko Matsumoto, the number two in the 10,000-member cult, has also been arrested as an accomplice in the Ochida case.

"The suspect (Asahara) conspired with fellow members to murder the victim. He ordered members to strangle him with a rope," Deputy Chief Prosecutor Tatsuo Kainaka told reporters, reading the indictment papers. "Asahara is the mastermind."

Asahara was also indicted on charges of illegally disposing of a body. Prosecutor Kainaka said the cult has used a powerful microwave oven to incinerate Ochida's remains.

"The body of Ochida became fine powder after being burned and exposed to nitric acid or something," Mr. Kainaka said. "It was not a body at all. This was horrible," he said.

An Aum spokeswoman said earlier the sect had nothing to do with the alleged murder. On Wednesday, she said there would be no new statement on the case.

Commuters on Tokyo's subway faced fresh fear Wednesday after a series of new gassings that police suspect were linked to the cult.

"There is a strong possibility that this was the work of the Aum Shinri Kyo," Chief Cabinet Secretary Kozo Igarashi told a news conference.

Only four people were slightly injured in the incidents on Tuesday night, but two of the cases involved failed attempts to release cyanide gas in amounts large enough to kill thousands.

The gas devices closely resembled one planted in a station lavatory in another failed attack on May 5.

Japanese media have said Aum members had confessed to the earlier attack. The cult reportedly admitted staging the attack to distract police investigating the March 20 sarin nerve gas attack on the Tokyo subway that killed 11 people and injured some 5,500.

Mr. Asahara and his top aides have been indicted over the March 20 case and the Tokyo district court has set a tentative opening date for the trial on Oct. 26.

The Doomsday cult released a statement denying involvement in the latest gassing incidents.

Aum has also denied any connection with the May 5 case. The reports of followers' confessions to the May 5 attack came from police briefings open only to domestic news organisations.

The Tuesday night incidents struck new fear into the hearts of Tokyo commuters, who had hoped the arrests of Aum members had removed the danger.

"It's scary, incredibly scary," said Muneyoshi Sahara, 39, who delivers newspapers to station kiosks. "It's dangerous," he whispered, gesturing around the train he was riding. "You always have to watch others. The subway is where I work."

Cambodian rebels reinforce captured post

BATTAMBANG, Cambodia (AFP) — Heavily-armed Khmer Rouge rebels who captured a key army position near Battambang rushed reinforcements to the site Wednesday as both sides dug in for the next bloody assault, military and police officials said.

The Khmer Rouge force of about 300 to 350 which on Tuesday captured the small Treng base, 42 kilometres south of Cambodia's second largest city of Battambang, was joined Wednesday by an additional 150 to 200 guerrillas, a senior police intelligence officer told AFP.

The estimated 500 guerrillas have seven tanks, 82 millimetre mortars and 75 and 122 millimetre artillery and anti-aircraft guns at their disposal, military officials said.

The government, which has sent in virtually no reinforcements for its troops, is backed by 10 tanks and a variety of artillery pieces, they said. In addition, the army has begun to strafe the rebels with machine-gun fire from helicopters based at the airport in Battambang town.

Shelling and ground fighting subsided Wednesday as the two sides established their new positions.

Shelling did continue though around the small village of Sdao, about 28 kilometres south of Battambang. The hospital there was evacuated Wednesday, according to a senior military officer there who said casualty figures remained uncelar.

In Phnom Penh, a government spokesman confirmed that the rebels had taken Treng Tuesday after a fierce battle.

"We tried hard to resist and the attack lasted for two hours, but then we lost Treng to Khmer Rouge hands," Sieng Lapresse told reporters.

But he added that the government was optimistic that the military would take it back and that fresh troops would soon be sent to assist. He said he did not know when the reinforcements would arrive.

Thai border officials Wednesday reported that five Cambodian soldiers were killed overnight in rebel attacks on two small towns in Banteay Meanchey province near Poipet about 90 kilometres northwest of Battambang.

Attacks in that area have caused more than 23,000 villagers to flee their homes forcing authorities in the town of Sispohon 51 kilometres east of Poipet to cope with the influx, officials in Phnom Penh said.

The rebels have also been active in other provinces.

On Monday, about 200 rebels recaptured Ane Ses, a border checkpoint in the remote northern province of Preach Vihear, a senior military intelligence officer in Phnom Penh told AFP.

The rebels are also reported to have blown up eight large chunks of National Route 4 in spots about 130 kilometres south of Phnom Penh. Route 4 is the country's main commercial road linking the capital to the port of Sihanoukville.

Yeltsin, Chernomyrdin review peace moves in Chechenya

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin, anxious for a breakthrough in the Chechenya conflict, met Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin Wednesday to chart Russia's negotiating stance at peace talks with separatists.

Mr. Yeltsin called in Mr. Chernomyrdin after two Russian negotiators gave the prime minister an apparently optimistic account of their meetings in the Chechen capital Grozny with Chechen rebel representatives.

Mr. Yeltsin's spokesman, Sergei Medvedev, was quoted by ITAR-TASS news agency as saying the Kremlin chief and Mr. Chernomyrdin discussed both the strategy and tactics of the Russian position — suggesting a thorough review was underway.

The two leaders were drawing up Moscow's final negotiating position, he said.

The two men met amid signs that Mr. Yeltsin wanted some concrete progress towards a settlement to the festering conflict before Russia starts the run-up to December elections after the summer.

But there was no indication that the Kremlin was ready to make any concession on the crunch question of independence for the North Caucasus territory.

Mr. Yeltsin himself signalled the contrary Tuesday by issuing a decree allowing a permanent Russian army presence in Chechenya.

That decree was denounced by chief Chechen negotiator Usman Imayev. "We see that behind the truce and talks (the Russians) are playing another game to mislead the public and present themsleves as peacekeepers," Mr. Imayev told Reuters Tuesday.

When Russian and Chechen negotiators broke off Monday for consultations they had been discussing the tricky questions of rebel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev, who had suggested he might resign as long as Moscow recognised Chechenya's independence.

The status of Chechenya, which declared independence in 1991, is the crux. Thousands of people have been killed since Mr. Yeltsin sent troops to bring the region to heel last December.

Each side has continued to accuse the other's forces of violating a ceasefire.

Lieutenant-General Anatoly Shirokov, a Russian Interior Ministry commander in the region, was quoted by TASS Wednesday as saying rebel forces had fired 19 times in the past 24 hours on federal military positions in Chechenya.

Attacks had been most intense in Shatoi region and areas in the south and southeast of Chechenya, Gen. Shirokov said.

During a half-hour meeting with Mr. Chernomyrdin Wednesday, the two Russian delegates — Deputy Nationalities Minister Vyacheslav Mikhailov and Industrialists Union boss Arkady Volsky — gave an upbeat assessment of progress at the Grozny talks.

Interfax quoted them as telling the premier the peace talks had good prospects and "would lead to a conclusion."

Mr. Chernomyrdin launched the peace process last month as part of an agreement with Chechen gunmen who attacked the southern Russian town of Budennovsk and took hundreds of hostages.

The Chechenya conflict was at the root of a showdown between Mr. Yeltsin and the lower house of parliament last week which the Kremlin leader defused only by axing three top officials, including his interior minister and the head of state security.

Mr. Yeltsin has so far taken a hardline on Chechenya. It is unclear if he is ready to soften his stance under the influence of Mr. Chernomyrdin, who has personally led the peace initiatives.

President Yeltsin Wednesday appointed Viktor Yerin, whom he sacked last week as interior minister, as a deputy director of Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service, ITAR-TASS news agency said.

Mr. Yerin was one of three top security officials whom Mr. Yeltsin fired on June 30 for mishandling the hostage crisis in Budennovsk.

The nomination was announced by Mr. Yeltsin's press service, TASS said.

Mr. Yerin, a career police officer who has shown his personnal loyalty to Mr. Yeltsin has no previous experience in foreign intelligence work. His appointment to a senior position appeared to indicate that he had not lost Mr. Yeltsin's favour.

The Kremlin leader dumped Mr. Yerin at the demand of deputies in Russia's lower house (State Duma), who accused him of a poor performance during the Budennovsk crisis.

The two other top officials dismissed were Nationalities Minister Nikolai Yegorov and the head of Federal Security Service Sergei Stepashin.

Meanwhile, the Duma, Russia's lower house of parliament, adopted Wednesday a law on electing members to the upper house, the Federation Council, Interfax news agency said.

The Russian Constitution does not specify how the Federation Council — which has close links with the executive and President Yeltsin — should be formed.

A total of 255 deputies to the Duma voted for this law, 12 against, and 11 abstained. It now needs to be approved by a simple upper house majority.

The law requires that candidates to the Federation Council be proposed by the executive together with assemblies representing each region or republic of the Federation.

It also requires at least half of the members of the Upper House to renounce all mandates or official functions other than those of the Federation Council, contrary to current practice.

The 170-member Upper House includes numerous regional "barons."

Article 96 of Russia's constitution, adopted in December 1993, stipulates that the formation of the Federation Council should be defined "by federal laws."

Catholics target N. Ireland police in new violence

BELFAST (R) — Roman Catholic rioters bombarded Northern Ireland police with Molotov cocktails and set vehicles ablaze early Wednesday in protest at Britain's release of a soldier jailed for killing a Belfast teenager in 1990.

Ignoring pleas from Catholic politicians, gangs hijacked trucks and attacked police stations in Belfast overnight.

The violence is the worst in the British-ruled province since ceasefire by rival guerrilla groups 10 months ago.

Police fired plastic bullets at gangs who hurled 60 petrol bombs at a heavily fortified police station in West Belfast, a predominantly Republican area.

Twenty vehicles were destroyed when a garage showroom was destroyed by fire during street violence in another area of Belfast around midnight.

The trouble zones quietened as dawn approached but some roads were blocked with charred vehicles, police said. A bomb scare disrupted traffic on a road leading to the Irish Republic.

On Monday, Britain freed private Lee Clegg, 27, after he had served two years of a life sentence. He was convicted of murdering 17-year-old Karen Reilly when he and other soldiers fired on a stolen car speeding through a roadblock in West Belfast in 1990.

The flareup in violence this week left Northern Ireland's peace process badly bruised. But security sources and politicians said they did not believe the truces declared by rival guerrilla groups, which ended 25 years of bloodshed, were under threat.

Both Republicans, who want the province to become part of a united Ireland, and those pledging loyalty to the British crown have demanded freedom for their 900 jailed comrades.

Britain refuses to release those jailed for violence during "the troubles."

Political progress has also been faltering. The London government says guns must be handed over before direct talks get under way with the guerrillas' political wings.

Martin McGuinness, a leader of Sinn Fein, the Irish Republican Army's political wing, told BBC Radio Wednesday that Britain must kickstart the search for permanent peace.

"The events on the streets represent a failure of politics," he said. "A peace process of 10 months needs to be developed in such a way thate al the parites with confidence can come to the negotiating table."

Prime Minister John Major dismissed claims that Clegg's release was politically motivated. The split-second shooting was not premeditated, he told parliament, contrasting it with guerrillas' planned killings.

"It is patently absurd to equate private Clegg's (act) with deliberate acts of murder," he said.

Armenians vote for new parliament, constitution

YEREVAN (AP) — Armenians voted Wednesday in elections for their first post-Soviet parliament and a new constitution in the war-ravaged, energy-starved nation.

In the first polling since presidential elections in 1991, voters will elect 190 members of parliament and vote in a referendum on a new constitution to replace their much-amended Soviet era constitution.

Authorities said the early turnout was small but steady.

"I voted for the (opposition), and against the constitution," said Susanna Gabrielian, a 45-year-old seamastress. "The government has brought us to poverty."

Vilen Tonikian, a 60-year-old architect, said he voted to approve the draft constitution.

"It is the only acceptable form of government organisation for Armenia," he said. "With the kind of parliament we've had, a strong role for it is not feasible."

The new constitution calls for a strong president with powers to dissolve parliament, appoint cabinet members, the chief justice of the Supreme Court and local goverment heads.

It would also give parliament the right to declare no confidence in the government and approve the budget.

In the parliamentary voting, a total of 1,390 candidates are running in 150 constituencies for individual seats. An additional 570 are on party tickets to fill the 40 seats earmarked for parties and political movements.

Several opposition parties were barred from the parliamentary campaign, prompting concern about fairness. Hundreds of observers from the United Nations, the European Union, Russia and the United States are in the Caucasus Mountains republic to monitor the elections.

The tiny nation's economic meltdown in recent years is a major concern for Armenian voters, who are struggling under soaring inflation and paralysed production.

The main political force in Armenia is the Republic Bloc — President Levon Ter-Petrosian's Armenian National Front and five smaller parties. The bloc favours a strong presidency and quicker economic reform, especially in a privatisation.

Opposition parties, including the National Democratic Union and the Civic Union, say fast reforms impoverish people and they oppose the provisions in the new constitution for giving the president too much power.

The Supreme Court in January suspended the activities of the Dashnak Party, one of Armenia's oldest political parties and a longtime campaigner for independence, pending a terrorism inverstigation against its leaders.

And last month, the Central Election Commission banned nine other paties from the election saying they had faked signatures needed to register. The parties denied the allegations.

Mitterrand emerges as anti-nuclear ally

SYDNEY (R) — Former President Francois Mitterrand emerged Wednesday as an unlikely ally for South Pacific nations opposed to French nuclear testing after he condemned his country's planned resumption of tests.

As anti-nuclear protests continued in Europe and Australia, the crew of Greenpeace flagship Rainbow Warrior II applauded Mr. Mitterrand's opposition as it headed to the site of a final round of tests in French Polynesia.

"Mitterrand may have had a belated conversion to the only sane and rational position — that the nuclear arms race must stop — but at least he is several steps ahead of President (Jacques) Chirac," said Jean-Luc Thierry of Greenpeace France.

Mr. Thierry issued his statement by satellite fax from the Rainbow Warrior, which left Tahiti Tuesday aiming to reach the underground test site at Mururoa atoll, in several days.

Its crew has pledged to take "peaceful direct action" to prevent or delay the nuclear tests, scheduled to be held between September and May next year.

It also plans to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the blowing up of the original Rainbow Warrior by French agents in New Zealand next Monday. Mr. Mitterrand was in power when the ship was blown up in Auckland Harbour, killing one person.

Mr. Mitterrand declared a moratorium on nuclear testing at Mururoa in 1992.

"I repeat that the time had come to put an end to the nuclear armaments race," Mr. Mitterrand said in an interview with a French magazine released Tuesday.

Mr. Mitterrand left office seven weeks ago. Mr. Chirac said last month more tests were needed to ensure the reliability of France's nuclear arsenal.

Mr. Chirac's decision caused a storm of protest in the Pacific, culminating in the firebombing of a French consultate in the West Australian city of Perth on June 17. Two people appeared in court Wednesday charged with the attack.

Australia and New Zealand have frozen defence ties with Paris. Australia, as chair of the 15-nation South Pacific Forum, also wants the region to run a publicity campaign in France and to disbar France as a Forum dialogue partner.

"Countries are being sounded out (on Australia's proposals)," a Forum spokesman told Reuters in Fiji, adding it was scheduled to meet in Papua New Guinea in September, when the first of eight tests is to be held at Mururoa.

Anti-nuclear protests have maintained their momentum, with Greenpeace activists in red boiler suits abseiling down the front of the French embassy in Rome overnight, unfurling a banner that read "stop Chirac."

They were joined on a balcony by Italian rock star Gianna Nannini who had entertained about 200 demonstrators with songs performed from a truck in front of the building.

In Australia, anti-nuclear groups and consumer lobby groups announced Wednesday the first coordinated move to encourage a boycott of French products at home and abroad.

The "don't buy French" international publicity campaign was to be launched in Sydney on the eve of Bastille Day — July 14 — when protests across the South Pacific are planned.

Campaign spokesman Ian Cohen, an environmental activist, said a boycott was the only way to influence Mr. Chirac.

"Once the various (French) corporations are complaining, we may find that the French government will listen," he told Reuters in Sydney.

Jordan Times

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Opening for July 11

THE ELECTIONS for 259 municipal councils next week should be a test of political parties' strength, the government's seriousness about democracy and people's aspirations to strengthen the democratic course and improve their lot. These elections are the first to be held in one day all over the Kingdom. They, therefore, represent a new experience through which many lessons will be learnt. Jordanians know very well that there is very little that the new councils can do in terms of improving economic conditions or easing unemployment, for instance. Yet municipal councils still have many expectations to meet.

Improved basic services with city and town limits would certainly lure investments and prospectors. These services include roads, cleanliness, improved water and electricity supplies, improved sewerage systems and advanced communications. While the mayors and the councils can do little to improve, say, the telephone services in their towns under the present set up in which telephones are provided by a single authority based in Amman, the councils can explore many ways of improving the services. One way is to enter into joint ventures with the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC). Another is to win a subcontract from the TCC. Yet another is to raise capital to start a small company that would provide the services.

The would-be mayors and councillors need not make empty promises of grand projects. They only need to listen to their townfolk to feel and identify their needs. The building of grand, expensive town halls, as we have seen in the past decades, is surely not a priority. Rather sidewalks and enough street lights are more important. Not important, nor essential, is the building of wide boulevards and roundabouts. Building small parks for children to release their energy is infinitely more useful. The orderly organisation of traffic, car parks, pedestrian areas should also be accorded priority. An institution that brings mayors together to exchange ideas will also be welcome.

While these are a few areas in which the future mayors should invest, the government also has a greater responsibility that lies ahead. First and foremost it needs to dispel all claims and allegations that it is biased against one faction or grouping in favour of another. To do that it needs to ensure fair and orderly elections that do not discriminate against any organisation or individual. In the long run, municipal councils need more powers and responsibilities to enable the concept of decentralisation to work and succeed. Ultimately all services should be provided by municipal councils as the experience of more advanced nations have shown that it is the most appropriate form of sharing power.

The July 11 elections are an opportunity that our people should not miss; all citizens should seize on them to improve the country's democratic and development processes.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in *Al Ra'i* daily said Wednesday that the Arabs and the Europeans can launch a true partnership in the economic fields if they free themselves from American hegemony. The Europeans have been excluded from the sponsorship of the peace process largely due to American hegemony and were forced to join the United States in the war against Iraq during the Gulf crisis under pressure from Washington, said Tareq Masarweh. The writer said, for their part, the Arabs came out of the Gulf crisis reeling under fear from American military power and the presence of thousands of foreign troops on Arab soil. The continued American hegemony on Europe and the Arabs is preventing a true Euro-Arab partnership although the Europeans have been financing the peace process and individually providing aid to Arab states, said the writer. It is not in our interests nor in the interest of the European nations to see Washington wielding supreme influence in this region and solely dominating the oil wealth of the Arabs, added the writer. He said perhaps under the Gaullists, France can launch an independent strategy which could eventually lead to the aspired Euro-Arab partnership benefiting Arab and European people.

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's idea of keeping the holy sites of Jerusalem free of domination from any single power so that they can remain a symbol of peace came in response to Israel's drive to confiscate Arab lands and perpetuate its domination of the city, said Mahmoud Rimawi, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily. The King's idea proposes that while Jerusalem could serve as the capital of the Palestinians and Israel, its religious places should remain free of all temporal power due to their sacred character and because they are revered by the followers of the three monotheistic faiths, said the writer. The King's proposals were timely, coming in the wake of Israel's recent drive to seize Arab lands around Jerusalem and as the Israelis and Palestinians approach the final stage of their negotiations, which include discussions over the future status of the Holy City, said the writer. This proposal, said the writer, can put an end to Israel's ambitious drive to evict the Arab citizens from Jerusalem.

The View from Academia

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

'Child proof' habitat: Making our homes safer for children

IT IS amazing how many things are said and done in the U.S. with the aim of caring for or protecting children. Among the latest in this respect, which many families are becoming more conscious of and more enthusiastic about, is the attempt to make the home itself safer for children to move about and live in, which some refer to as house "proofing." In our part of the world, very little attention is paid to this concept.

The main assumption behind the idea of house "proofing," which will be explained in more detail a little later, is that while parents are fairly aware of the dangers involved for children outside the house (especially when they are left unattended), they are little aware of the dangers involved inside the home. Most parents take it for granted that nothing can really happen to their children inside the house as long as they are kept under constant supervision. The question here is, can they in fact be kept under supervision the whole time? Realistically, the answer is no, for the "supervisors" or attendants (in most cases the parents and elder siblings or relatives) are almost continually distracted by phone calls, door bells or other distractions. In such cases, children find themselves roaming freely in the house and (often) harming themselves in the process.

Add to this the fact that children are curious by nature, and that it is hard to keep them in one or two places. In fact, many argue that for children to grow and develop properly they must explore their surroundings. But such exploration, and the various house-hold items and tools they come across while exploring, may prove to be extremely harmful and at times even fatal.

The fact of the matter is that the house, which is designed, furnished and decorated with the needs of the adults, not the children, in mind, is quite hazardous and threatening to child safety. The risks, threats and hazards are infinite, however, most people (including some experts) agree that the kitchen, bathroom and livingroom are (respectively) the most dangerous.

One can think of many scenarios here. Children, for example, are fond of opening drawers. The first thing they do when they see a closed drawer is to attempt to open it. They may injure themselves in the proces of opening it or in the process of closing it again.

An "expert" speaking on American television the other day demonstrated how children at times open drawers and use them as stairs to climb to higher cupboards and areas in the kitchen, and thus injure themselves either by falling or by getting to the more dangerous items and tools.

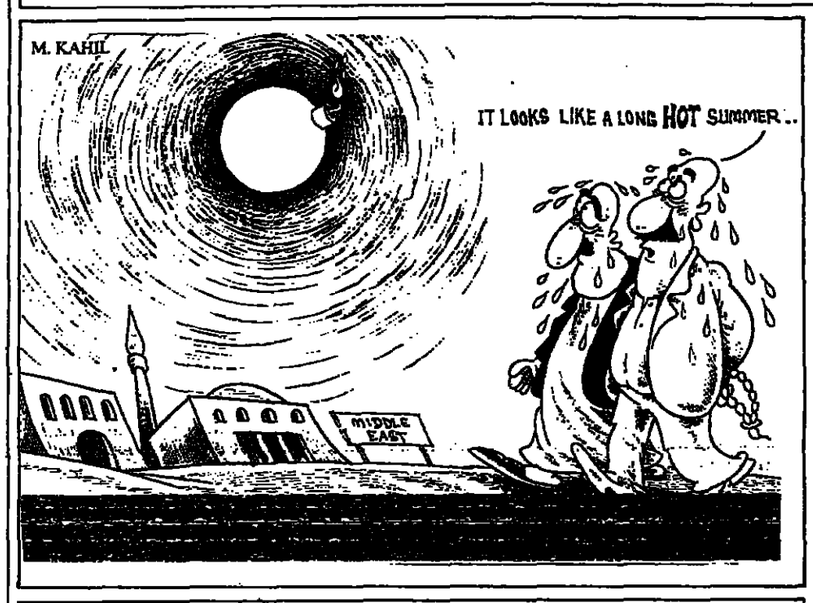
Children may also open the cupboards under the sink (in the kitchen or the bathroom) and play with the various cleaning substances, some of which may cause serious burns if they are opened and spilled or poisoning or death if their content is swallowed. In the meantime, the unattended child, who has burning with desire for months to touch or feel (this is how children at a certain age learn after all) a couple of vases on the table-cloth in an attempt to stand up throws the two vases on its head. He/she may also decide to play with the stereo and TV cords and so on and so forth.

The solution is to "proof" the house — or to make it "child proof" as some are saying. The parents, preferably with the assistance of a specialist or an expert in the matter, are called upon to take a number of preventive measures, either before they design, furnish and decorate their house or after. If they are in the process of building a house or furnishing it, they have to keep the needs of the children in mind. In this respect, whatever they design or buy has to be "child proof." If they have already moved into a house and bought the furniture and decorated they are called upon to rearrange and reorganise as much as possible. They must also (on their own or with the help of a specialist) decide upon the potentially threatening spots and items and implement all the safety measures necessary. For example, they have to make sure that whatever drawers and cupboards they have cannot be opened by children (they have to install locks or keys, if no other way is possible). They must also remove all cleaning substances to areas which cannot be reached by children and must close all of them tightly. They must also remove covers from tables on which they place heavy decorative items or remove those items.

Some insist that parents must seek the help of specialists or experts because they themselves, while admittedly easily recognising what is visibly or blatantly threatening or dangerous, may not be able to identify many potentially threatening and hazardous situations.

Two factors are particularly worrying in our society. The first is that most people in our part of the world are not aware of the home as potentially threatening and hazardous for our children, and the vast majority of our houses are not designed, furnished and decorated with the needs of children in mind. The second is that, and this is a very unfortunate sociological fact in today's Arab World, we generally tend to underestimate danger. Just as many persons in our society cross the street without looking left or right, work on construction sites without taking the necessary precautions, play soccer with their hiking shoes (or worse yet with their slippers), smoke while holding their children and drive without a seat-belt and violate all the rules in the book, spray peticides or insecticides without putting a mask on and fire shot-guns when celebrating a happy occasion or on weddings, so do we leave our children unattended in the midst of many household dangers.

Our homes are are as hazardous and dangerous as our streets, if not more. What we need therefore is a campaign (through the media, the schools, the mosque, the various child-care institutions) which explains this level of hazard and dangers and advise parents consistently on what to do to make their homes safer and more liveable for children. Financially, this does not cost much. I hope that we will take the safety and welfare or our children a little more seriously than we do at present.



New generation of Israeli leaders emerging

By Allyn Fisher
The Associated Press

YITZHAK RABIN'S pioneer generation has governed Israel for nearly a half century, and the 73-year-old war hero is preparing to seek another term next year.

But a corp of young leaders is waiting impatiently in the wings. They have won control of key institutions and the main opposition party, the Likud bloc, as they move into position to vie for the top job.

Israel's new generation are smoother talkers and snappier dressers than the rough-hewn and blunt founding fathers.

Their views differ — from Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu's distrust of the Arabs to Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin's dovish outlook — but they share a pragmatic approach that reflects a more self-assured Israel.

The newcomers "stand for something new in Israel, a leaning towards American values, individualism, television politics," said Uri Dromi, spokesman for Mr. Rabin's government.

The generation gap will be on full display in the 1996 election campaign, when Mr. Rabin's main opponent will be some 30 years younger.

Mr. Netanyahu, 45, is master of the "sound bite" in both English and Hebrew, in contrast to the sometimes plodding bureaucrats and generals who have led Israel.

Mr. Netanyahu grabbed the nation's attention two years ago after confessing to an extramarital affair on national television.

The revelation was seen as proof at the time that yet another American practice — that of scrutinising the private lives of politicians — had been imported to Israel.

A graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Mr. Netanyahu projects a certain pragmatism. He wrote off the Gaza Strip, which Mr. Rabin last year transferred to Palestinian rule, much more quickly than most of his conservative colleagues.

He remains hard-line regarding future concessions to Palestinians and other Arabs — arguing, for instance, that a land-for-peace deal with Syria "won't be worth the paper and ink used to write it."

Yet his arguments are based almost solely on security concerns and contain little of the passionate nationalism typical of former Likud premiers Menachem Begin and Yitzhak Shamir.

One of Mr. Netanyahu's closest aides, lawmaker Limor Livnat, is Likud's leading female politician and would likely be named to the cabinet if he won the premiership.

In parliament since 1992, the 44-year-old Livnat believes that a key to returning Likud to power is to focus on social issues rather than the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"A country can't live on foreign policy issues. There are everyday problems to take care of," she said.

Mr. Livnat looks to conservative Americans as a role model. She complains, for example, that national symbols in Israel, like flags, are considered too politically loaded.

"I envy the Americans," she said. "They have their flag, their symbols that they are proud of. It says "in God we trust" on the dollar bill. Imagine if we dared do that here, they'd denounce us as antiquated fanatics."

Mr. Netanyahu's future rival may be Haim Ramon, also 45, who over the past year has emerged as a leading candidate to succeed Mr. Rabin as head of the Labour Party.

The son of holocaust survivors, the charismatic Roman caused strains in his party last year when he quit as health minister in a dispute over national health insurance.

He wrested leadership of the powerful Histadrut trade union federation from Labour rivals and has carried out promises for a housecleaning — including a corruption probe that has led to a full-scale police investigation.

Growing up in the mixed Jewish-Arab neighbourhood of Jaffa in Tel Aviv helped make Mr. Ramon a dove. But like Mr. Netanyahu, his arguments are almost free of ideology.

Mr. Ramon helped Mr. Rabin win the 1992 election with a catchy "take Gaza out of Tel Aviv" campaign message. That played on Israeli fears of Arabs during a period of stabbing attacks, while at the same time implied acceptance of the Palestinian goal of independence.

Mr. Ramon's top Labour rival is likely to be Ehud Barak, 53, who served as army chief of staff until last January.

The only war hero among the up-and-comers, Mr. Barak is a music lover who plays classical piano. On a popular television show recently, he said his favourite song was an anti-war hymn called "Strawberries."

Another rising star in Labour is Avraham Burg, 40. Elected to head the Jewish Agency in February, he is a rare combination of orthodox Jew and civil rights activist.

His career in parliament since 1988 has been marked by a crusade to separate religion and state, arguing that rabbinical influence in politics alienates Israelis from Judaism.

Mr. Beilin, the deputy foreign minister, was mastermind of Israel's 1993 peace agreement with the PLO. He is an intellectual with a doctorate in political science from Tel Aviv university, but is known for displaying a lighter side.

Divided big power group fades away on Bosnia

By Nicholas Doughty
Reuters

LONDON — The group of five major powers which has been trying to negotiate peace in Bosnia is gradually fading from view, divided and all but beaten by exhaustion and the intransigence of the warring parties, diplomats say.

European Union (EU) peace envoy Carl Bildt, currently engaged in his latest bout of shuttle diplomacy in the region, has taken up the baton since his appointment last month with the clear understanding that he is now the best hope for a breakthrough.

While the official line remains that the five-nation Contact Group is coordinating policy on Bosnia, diplomats say it has become clear to all that the chances of success are slim.

With the situation in Bosnia deteriorating by the day and serious doubts about the effectiveness of the new "rapid reaction force," the United States and its Western allies have been reduced to sniping at each other in public.

All of the Contact Group's members — the United States, Russia, France, Germany and Britain — are seen by one or both of the warring parties as partisan in some way, crippling their credibility as impartial negotiators.

Against this background, senior officials from the Contact Group gave Bildt their blessing at a discreet meeting in Paris just before last week's European Union summit.

"He hasn't formally taken over from the group, it's more of an informal understanding," said one European diplomat." The Contact Group is moving into the background because it's become clear that a new face would have a better chance."

Michael Williams, who worked as a senior U.N. official in former Yugoslavia and has now joined the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London, said it had been clear for some time that the Contact Group was failing.

"The group appears to have been held together only by the shared reluctance to admit failure," he said.

The Contact Group was set up more than a year ago in an effort to lead and coordinate policy on Bosnia and prevent further splits in the international community.

In his latest efforts, Mr. Bildt has combined existing big power initiatives with a mandate from EU leaders at the Cannes summit, wrapping it all into one package.

The Contact Group's plan to divide Bosnia almost equally between the rebel Serbs and the Muslim-Croat alliance remains on the table, although few see much chance that the Serbs will change their minds and accept the plan.

Mr. Bildt is also trying to negotiate a ceasefire and pushing the idea that Serbia should recognise Bosnia, thus easing tensions and further isolating the defiant Bosnian Serbs. The Contact Group had tried this approach and failed.

Diplomats said Mr. Bildt, a former Swedish premier, had proven to be the ideal choice as a mediator who could do the job and at the same time take the focus away from the Contact group.

His predecessor, Britain's Lord Owen, was shunned and effectively sidelined by the United States after he criticised Washington for taking the side of Bosnia's Muslim-led government while refusing to send troops to join the U.N. force.

"In many ways, Bildt's greatest advantage is that he is not from a major power and that he's not Owen," said another envoy.

In addition, Mr. Bildt's new role has pleased EU countries which had sent troops to former Yugoslavia but felt they were kept in the dark by the Contact Group. Those countries including Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain and Denmark.

Diplomats said Mr. Bildt was moving at breakneck speed to try and cash in on these various advantages.

"He knows time is running out and that whatever benefit he starts with will be short-lived," said another diplomat.

India tries once again to move towards peace in Kashmir

By Thomas Wagner
The Associated Press

NEW DELHI, India — For the first time since Kashmir's guerrilla war exploded nearly six years ago, India has offered to hold talks with the Muslim separatists without preconditions.

The proposal, made Sunday evening, is the latest indication that Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao hopes to bring some rebel groups to the negotiating table in war-torn Kashmir.

"Rao appears to be saying that the time is finally right for going ahead with the political process in Kashmir," said B.G. Verghese of the Centre for Policy Research think-tank.

On Monday, the All Party Freedom Movement, a coalition of politicians and religious leaders who support the insurgents in Jammu-Kashmir state, welcomed the offer.

But they said such talks would have to consider their demand that India grant independence to Jammu-Kashmir.

"The All Party Freedom Movement is not against such talks, but first India should accept that Jammu-Kashmir is a disputed territory," said its president, Umar Farooq.

"If the Indian government thinks the talks are only to discuss partial autonomy or elections in Jammu-Kashmir, then we aren't going to participate," he said in an interview.

India and Pakistan have fought two wars over Kashmir since 1948 and it is divided between them by a ceasefire line.

Jammu-Kashmir is the only state in predominantly Hindu India with a Muslim majority. In 1989, a separatist war began there and more than 11,600 people have been killed in battles between the Muslim rebels and the tens of thousands of Indian troops.

Prime Minister Rao, who took office in 1991 during an economic crisis in India, did little during his first three years in power regarding Kashmir, and it often led to infighting among his cabinet ministers.

But that began to change this year.

First, Mr. Rao's government released several rebel leaders from prison. Then it proposed holding legislative elections in the state, which the federal government rules from New Delhi.

In June, the government agreed to allow the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit detention centres that Indian forces allegedly use to torture rebel suspects in Jammu-Kashmir.

And on Sunday evening, Bhuvanesh Chaturvedi, a minister of state, offered the unconditional talks while touring the state.

Despite all this, few people expect a breakthrough in Jammu-Kashmir any time soon.

The rebel groups fighting there want the state to become independent or part of Pakistan.

Weekender

July 6, 1995 A

Published Every Thursday

SOCIETY ON THE MOVE

While some cross thresholds, others play musical chairs

Family milestones: *Celebrating a very special birthday last week was His Royal Highness Prince Hussein, son of Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah and Princess Rania, and grandson of His Majesty King Hussein. A true Hashemite, the one-year-old Prince Hussein already shows signs of following in the family footsteps as evidenced by how gallantly he sports his military garb. A fond birthday salute to a mighty tyke, and congratulations to his proud parents.*

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Birthday cheer was in store also for Begum Shaista Suhrawardy Ikramullah, mother of Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan, when children, grandchildren and great grandchildren arrived in London, where they gathered with the Begum to celebrate her 80th birthday. Begum Ikramullah was born July 22, 1915. Coming from a family with a long tradition of scholarship and key participation in the struggle for national freedom, the Begum received her B.A. in English with honours in Calcutta in 1933. Later she took up research for three years at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. In 1940, Begum Ikramullah obtained a Ph.D. from the University of London. She was married in 1933 to Mohammed Ikramullah, whose family distinguished itself in the service of Pakistan. Mr. Ikramullah devoted much of his life to his country's diplomatic activities. As Pakistan's first foreign secretary he was charged with the establishment of the state's foreign service. After a series of senior appointments in the foreign office, Mr. Ikramullah was appointed as Chairman of the Commonwealth Economic Committee in 1961. He died three years later while at this same post. Throughout her life the Begum Ikramullah has been highly active in a variety of capacities in education, literary, social welfare and political work, including membership in Pakistan's Advisory Board of Education, as president of Pakistan's University Women's Association and as a delegate to the U.N. in 1948 where she took an active part in the drafting of the Convention for Human Rights and the conventions against genocide. Writing in Urdu and English, the Begum has published fiction and writings on social issues (particularly women's issues), including Critical Survey of the Urdu Novel and Short Story, Letters to Nina and Behind the Veil. She was elected a member of the Royal Society of Arts in England in 1958. Her lecture tours have taken her extensively through Pakistan, Canada, the U.K. and the U.S. to speak on women's issues, literature, education and politics. The Begum Ikramullah is expected to arrive in Jordan today to visit with her family here and share her wealth of life experiences with loved ones.

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Up and down University Road: *Keeping an eye on the two largest circulating Arabic dailies on the home front could have been a dizzying experience last week, especially if all the rumours of the ping-pong journalism between Al Dustour and Al Rai actually materialised. Talk was that former Al Rai columnist Fakhri Kawar (who had quit the paper months ago) was joining Al Dustour and so too was Khaled Mahadin who had yet another falling out with Al Rai last month. Making the cross-over to Al Rai was former Jordanian Writers Association president Munes Razzaz. True enough on Mr. Kawar -- his first column appeared in the July 1 issue of Al Dustour. Negative on Mr. Mahadin. And true also on Mr. Razzaz. Over on the more northern end of University Road, Al Dustour Editor-in-Chief Nabil Sharif said of the Kawar co-optation, "We feel he is an outstanding writer who is always interested in people's issues, and he is down to earth in his coverage of such issues." On the departure of Mr. Razzaz, Dr. Sharif said, "We regret the loss of Munes Razzaz as a columnist who has been a member of Al Dustour for eight years. While we understand the circumstances that led him to leave, we are not fully convinced. We did not disagree, and there was no quarrel. There has always been mutual respect between us on all levels." Still, sources close to Mr. Razzaz, who is also an adviser to the Ministry of Culture and has been a vocal opponent of cultural normalisation with Israel, said that the writer has been feeling professionally nonplussed of late and, as he sees Al Rai as a bastion of security, he felt his calling would be better supported there. Mr. Razzaz, opting to be less verbal on the matter, simply confirmed what those sources had said. Now we wait to see whether the switches will give rise to any new twists in the highly read Kawar and Razzaz columns. On the Mahadin case, Dr. Sharif categorically denied that there had been any contact between Mr. Mahadin and Al Dustour on the prospect of his taking a column in the paper. "These were only rumours," he insisted.*

Nadine and Obada Kayali with the bride's parents Taher and Samar Masri

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In vogue with the Vogels: *At a garden party hosted by Swiss journalist Artur Vogel and wife, Sonia Sauthier Vogel late last month, it was no rumour but rather fact that Artur is in for a professional move. As a writer for Tages-Anzeiger (translation, the "Daily Advertiser"), Switzerland's largest newspaper, Artur's possibilities are either a bureau-based job that would also take him to the foreign field for major events, or an administrative position where he would be responsible for a staff of about 30 persons. Artur's love has been journalism, and his Middle East stint, starting in 1988, destined him to meet Sonia six years ago while she was working at the Swiss embassy in Amman. Sonia has her hands full taking care of the couple's first-born, Lara (two-and-a-half-years-old) and three-month-old "made and born in Jordan" Alix. The eventual move for the Vogels, however, is still way off, so their gentle company can still be enjoyed before any fond farewells.*

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Not losing daughters, just gaining sons: *Cupid was busy seeing to it that all those couples he brought together went on their merry way into the blissfullness of marriage. Tamara Qassem, daughter of Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Qassem and Joyce Qassem, wed Fawwaz Fawwaz, son of anaesthesiologist Muafaq Fawwaz and Clara Fawwaz. The groom studied in his mothers homeland of Denmark as well as in England and now is in the machinery supply business in Amman. The bride, who studied fashion design and psychology at Marymount College in Washington, D.C., is a partner in the ownership and management of Maximillan, a trendy Shmeisani children's boutique for apparel, and other useful accessories. When the couple return from their honeymoon in Kenya, we may see some African motif making a splash in the latest in baby fashion. Both Tamara and Fawwaz, by the way, were brought into the world by family doctor and friend Jamal Shaar, who beamed as proudly as their parents when the two said "I do."*

Nadine Masri, daughter of former Prime Minister and House Deputy Taher Masri and Samar Bitar Masri, took the hand of Obada Kayali, son of Izat and Salwah Kayali, who, when not in Athens, happen to be neighbours of the Masris. The young couple met at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. where Nadine was studying. Obada, who earned a masters from George Washington University, owns and manages a software company. When "just marrieds" return from their Caribbean honeymoon, they will settle in Amman. Mrs. Masri,, moved by the emotions of all mothers, was also particularly happy that friends who knew Nadine as a child flew in from all corners to share in this special occasion. She was still seeing many off at the airport before she even got a chance to call the photographer.

Enjoying a honeymoon on the French Riviera were newlyweds Khouloud and Bisher Bakr. Khouloud, who resigned from her job at the Business Bank to enter matrimony, is the daughter of foodstuffs trader Jamal Abu Eisheh and Ruhifa Abu Eisheh. Bisher, a masters graduate of Bristol University in England, is the son of attorney and Palestine National Committee member Ibrahim Bakr and Leila Masri Bakr. Khouloud, a University of Jordan graduate in French literature, had a chance to practice her French in Cannes. Once the couple are back in Amman, Bisher, who knows his debits from his credits having worked a while with Touche Ross in England, will be hitting the books again, managing audits for Allied Accountants, the Arthur Anderson associates in Jordan.

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Is this any way to run an airline? *You bet it is, would be the answer of Royal Jordanian's President and Chief Executive Officer Nader Dahabi. The former air force brigadier general, who first did away with flagrant abuse of "upgrading" of passengers, has now "read the riot act" to his newly formed batch of area managers worldwide. No longer does he want to hear of or see, for that matter, area managers racing to airports to "meet and assist" VIPs, including himself, unless directed to do so from the airline's head office. The point here, said RJ management, is to impress upon the area managers that their job is to concentrate on promoting RJ in their area of jurisdiction and "not be playing at public relations." So if in the following list of RJ area managers and other appointments readers find friends among the new line up, it would behove them not to embarrass the ladies and gentlemen by requesting any "meeting and assisting.". You will just have to haul your own carry-on luggage, so best lighten up.*

Area Managers and new appointments effective between Aug. and Sept:

Ahed Quntar from London to Head Office (H/O)
Hasan Nabulsi from H/O to London
Marwan Mughrabi from Kuala Lumpur to Riyadh
Marwan Saudi from Riyadh to Amsterdam
Shafiq Maqboul from Colombo to Kuala Lumpur
Amin Hassanein from H/O to Colombo
Mitri Fahel from Dubai to Dhahran
Fathi Hmoud from Jeddah to Dubai
Ali Hlayel form Sanaa to Jeddah
Abdeljalil Abbadi from Karachi to Sanaa
Omar Ismail from New York to Karachi
Kaftan Tarawneh from Vienna to Moscow
Maha Bitar from H/O to Vienna
Sawsan Madanat from H/O to Berlin
Fursan Asfour from Dhahran to H/O
Naser Majali from Berlin to H/O
Nayef Abaza from Moscow to H/O
Hazem Hamzeh from Aden to H/O
Mohammad Asi from Amsterdam to H/O

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Is it a 'dream' or is it Hakeem? *Yes it is indeed true. If you saw a 2.17-metre man in the vicinity of the Marriott Hotel or Hussein Youth City in the past few days, and thought it was time for an eye check up, fear not. NBA Champions Houston Rockets Hakeem Olajuwon is in Amman. Here on his way to do the umra, Hakeem "The Dream" stopped by the Sports Palace Tuesday evening to sit in on the Jordan Women's National Basketball Team who were playing against the Syrian Al Jala' team. Sitting next to Jordan team fans who were singing away to the drumming of a tableh, Hakeem was finally noticed by Basketball Federation members and brought to the VIP seating area. During the eighth minute of the second half of the match, the shortest member of Jordan's women's team, Suhair Maqousi, daughter of University of Jordan Vice President Mohammad Maqousi, ran to the VIP box to ask Hakeem if he would pose with the team for a photo. As gracious as he is tall, Hakeem stepped immediately to follow Suhair to the court. The game stopped abruptly, and players on both teams rushed for their cameras. The Jordanian team was in sufficient awe, but the Syrian girls nearly needed CPR -- with no televised NBA games in Syria, the site of this all-star centre was almost too much to cope with.. Could that be why Syria lost to Jordan 54-37. Earlier at a press conference, Hakeem denied that he was in Jordan to find a bride and that he earns $10 million per annum. "I've got a comfortable life," said Olajuwan (which in Nigerian, his mother tongue, means "always being on top"). Although he denies this as well, sources expect Hakeem will make an appearance at the Orthodoxi Club tonight where he may play in an exhibition match with the Kingdom's youth team which will be leaving on Sunday to take part in the World Championship in Athens against the U.S., Italy and Australia.*

Hakeem Olajuwon poses with members of the Jordan Women's National Basketball Team and their coach, Fadi Sabbah, at the Sports Palace in Amman (photo by Aleen Bannayan)

Hakeem is expected to head for Mecca on Sunday. He said he would make Jordan an annual stop on his way to umra and added that he was ready to assist Jordanian basketball in whatever way he can each time he makes his Amman stopover. This is no ordinary Hakeem (wise) guy.

Jennifer Hamarneh

BOOK REVIEW

The clouded view from the Oval Office

For the President's Eyes Only: Secret Intelligence and the American Presidency From Washington to Bush

By Christopher Andrew
646 pp, Harper Collins, £25

IT IS tempting to see the modern history of U.S. intelligence as one of almost unrelenting incompetence. The list of failures to foresee challenge is long: Pearl Harbour in 1941 and the Soviet atom bomb in 1949; the North Korean invasion of the South in 1950 and the later Chinese intervention; the Sputnik launch in 1957 and the stationing of missiles on Cuba in 1962; Egypt's attack on Israel in 1973; the Portuguese revolution of 1974; the fall of the Shah and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979; most recently the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. In all these, the president and U.S. governmernt were taken by surprise.

The record of the intelligence services' covert action abroad is also bleak, for different reasons. There was more success: governments ousted in Iran and Guatemala; elections interfered with in Italy and Guyana; Third World regimes bled to defeat in Nicaragua, Afghanistan, Angola. And when there was not success, there was much activity — hence over two dozen attempts to assassinate Fidel Castro. The problem was that it was unsavoury, if not criminal. The one thing the CIA prided itself on was that it had never suffered high-level infiltration, but the discovery of Aldrich Ames, the American answer to Kim Philby, has put an end to that particular hubris.

All this, and much else, is surveyed in Christopher Andrew's study of the relation between U.S. presidents and the intelligence services. Much of the story has been told before; but it has not been told as a single narrative. Most importantly, it is told here through the lens of the Oval Office. The presidents' characters — their backgrounds, working habits and, in the cases of Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon, their paranoias — did as much as anything to shape this relationship.

The focus on the president provides two central correctives to the established story. The first is that in many cases, not least Pearl Harbour, it was the president's inability of properly interpret information supplied to him that led to foreign policy failure. The world is usually not short of information but it is short of sensible assessment of that material: We need Wisdomnet more than Internet. Many major mistakes of U.S. foreign policy were the result of such an inability of evaluation or of understanding enemies (Chinese, Vietnamese and Cuban among them), of a wishful thinking within the foreign policy élite born of long unchallenged beliefs.

The other corrective concerns covert action. Far from this being the result of some runaway intelligence community, the responsibility lay with the presidents themselves. For all the manicured deniability in which they indulged from Truman onwards, it was the U.S. presidents who organised coups and bribery and stimulated disinformation and opposition movements in target countries. This was as true for Eisenhower in Iran as it was for Kennedy in the Bay of Pigs, Nixon in Chile and Reagan in Nicaragua. In a few cases, including the evaluation of Soviet forces in Cuba in 1979, CIA information was responsible for foreign policy blunders. Later, Reagan's Secretary of State George Shultz, accused the CIA of providing him with "bum dope" on changes within the USSR and on Iran.

Any history of intelligence risks being distorted by the fragmentary nature of what is known. Equally, there are places in this account where episodes already in the public domain receive insufficient attention. There is a lot about unwelcome press leaks, but far too little on anti-Soviet disinformation, not least the use of the U.S. press for cold war ends. The CIA's role in counter-insurgency in Vietnam, Operation Phoenix, arguably its most brutal chapter, passes without mention, as do others: The intervention in the 1964 Guyanese elections, the promotion of insurrection in Iraq after 1972, the covert action response to the Portugese revolution after 1974, and support for opposition Iranian groups after 1979. In discussing the background to the 1986 U.S. bombing of Libya, there is no hint that the "proof" offered of Libyan involvement in the Berlin nightclub bombing in which a U.S. serviceman was killed — the pretext for the attack — was subsequently questioned. At this and other points, one feels the author is rather too close to his sources.

There is much that is relevant to the assessment of the role of intelligence in the cold war. In the case of hot wars there is often much that needs, in retrospect, to be adjusted: the breaking of German codes in the World War II is a case in point. One can only assume that much will not be known about the cold war for a long time to come, but as Christopher Andrew shows, much that is already known allows us to assess the role of intelligence in U.S. policy-making. In general, the lesson is that during the cold war, at least, when the supreme goal was to avoid nuclear war, intelligence-gathering lessened tension. Once the U.S. could use U-2 spy planes over Soviet territory and, later satellites, Washington was able to produce more realistic, and lower, evaluations of Soviet military capabilities. Information helped Kennedy keep control of the Cuba missile crisis. The agreements on strategic weapons reached from 1972 involved, and legitimised, signals and electronic surveillance. If covert action was an instrument of competition, intelligence gathering was a form of reassurance.

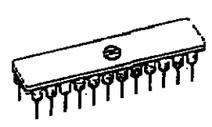
Fred Halliday

Fred Halliday is professor international relations at the LSE. The review first appeared in the Guardian newspaper.

Legitimating the market

By Jean-Claude Elias

chip talk



A new trade usually goes through a phase of adaptation and adjustment before it is practiced according to well established rules. Depending on the nature of the trade, these rules may be formalised by an official body, like the government or a union, or they may simply be non-formal rules, gradually defined by society. In either case, these rules allow a fair, legal practice of the trade and let both practitioners and patrons avoid confusion and chaos.

We know what the work of doctors, civil engineers, lawyers, plumbers, school teachers is, but do we know exactly what a computer specialist should or should not do? Most people have only a vague idea of the subject. What is the difference between a system programmer and an analyst for example?

Among the tens of computer vendors operating in Jordan, how many are qualified or employ qualified personnel to give professional advice, training, assistance or after-sales support? Who is authorised to decide who is qualified?

The Jordan Computer Society, established a few years ago, is doing a good job bringing together companies involved in the computer business and data processing professionals. It has certainly helped organise the trade and raise the level of the services rendered to the public. Being accepted as a member whether as a company or as a person is not automatic — strict admission criteria have been defined. The society however is not equivalent to an official union and cannot prevent non-qualified parties from working in the computer field.

If time is acting as a natural filter, allowing only the "good" things to go through its natural grid, it's certainly working very slowly in the field of personal computing. Many PC users are still hurt by incompetent sales or technical people, not to mention those simply deceived by unscrupulous, so-called specialists. The vulgarisation process, otherwise a positive drive, is also working against the time filter. There are too many good opportunities to seize by amateur "computer engineers," even if the user has to pay a high price finding out what is right and what is wrong.

In a free market like Jordan, no one is going to prevent the non-professional from working in the domain of information technology and no one should. However, since the PC has fallen in the consumer category, consumer protection groups should be established to honestly inform users, giving them the advice they badly need in order to make a better choice, whether they are buying a PC system, searching for the software they need or simply looking for some guidance. Such groups could also warn users against unqualified vendors and companies. When can we expect to see consumer protection groups in Jordan?

City folk for a day, fools for a lifetime

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

Last week I received a very interesting letter, about a certain city, from one of my regular readers. This week, it seemed timely to get the contents of this letter out into the open while keeping the true identity of the writer concealed.

Dear Sir,

I live in a city which has recently grown dramatically in size and population. People from all around the world come and stay in this city. Some of them stay for short periods of time while others stay for longer ones. Others just set up a new home for themselves wherever they can. And believe me, they can do it just about anywhere.

With all this and more, with some of those people finding themselves suddenly in possession of vast sums of money, the social and physical structure of my city is slowly, but steadily, crumbling.

Next to the latest car models on the streets are the age-old tricycles and rickshaws. And to make things even worse than they already are, the rich owners of those latest car models, and their spoilt ignorant children, do every kind of imaginable effort to make their towering presence felt and heard whether on the streets, at coffee shops, restaurants, hotels, youth clubs and all kinds of meetings whether public or private.

At such gatherings, there is always somebody who earned his PhD from such and such a place all because his father is so and so. Assessment in terms of morals and ethics, in addition to education of course, is no longer possible. After all, a good education is one of the best things that could ever happen to a person. It just seems sad that a good education at a good university has simply been turned into just a title for the person who undertook such an education. What matters more in a person today is what kind of a car does he or she drive, how many servants are there at his or her house and how much money does the daddy have and in what currencies!

All this unfortunately happens in a city where more money instantly means moving to better neighbourhoods irrespective of what becomes of the older neighbourhood. People have lost their loyalty to their city, their society, their neighbourhoods and even their extended family.

These people can never have any role whatsoever in charting the future of the city in which they live.

Nowadays, this apathy is shared by nearly everyone who lives in the city. These are the same people who throw cigarette packs and soda pop cans out of their car windows and who blow their car horns at all hours of the day and night rather than stepping up to the front door to ring the bell.

These people are also the taxi drivers who nearly run you over just to get you to ride with them and the upper classes who never stop at red lights. They are also the law enforcement officers who will give a car with a civil number plate a ticket for parking illegally but will forgive one with an 'official number plate.

The malaise runs far deeper than anyone can ever imagine. There are however some policy makers who are trying, and trying very hard at that, to push through among the people the message of caring for, loving and respecting the city and one another but there is unfortunately a line beyond which the message falls on deaf ears.

What are we to do and how can we, both policy makers and citizens, work together to bring about the sort of society where it is both comfortable and convenient to live?

Yours faithfully,
Roy Cokes

This column would like to thank Mr. Cokes for his valuable contribution. It would also like to thank the Greater Amman Municipality for having organised the comprehensive conference which, hopefully, will open the flood gates to ideas for the future of Amman as it prepares to enter the new millenium. What was truly disappointing was that even though most of the conference sessions were open to the public, not that many people bothered to attend. Not even the people who were invited to contribute and those others who could have — by virtue of their education, experience and positions — influenced the outcome. And they dare to claim that they care for this city. Some even run for seats in council elections.

If we take public attendance of this conference to be one measure of its success or failure, then it has miserably failed in this respect. And we only have ourselves to blame for that.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, July 6

1:30 Iris-The Happy Professor

1:40 Noddy

2:00 Fireman Sam

2:30 NBA

3:00 Pirates Island

3:30 Take Your Pick

4:00 I Witness Video

4:30 French Programme

7:30 News Headlines

7:35 Documentary — National Geographic

8:30 The Album Show

9:15 Murder She Wrote

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie — Murder Of Innocence

Starring: Valerie Bertinelli

Based on a true story of a young woman whose terrifying descent into insanity brings danger to all those around her.

12:00 The Cracker

Friday, July 7

1:00 Reed-A-Alle

1:15 Beethoven

1:30 Why I didn't Think Of That

2:00 White Fang

2:30 The Wonder Of It All

4:00 The Crystal Maze

4:30 French Programme

7:30 News Headlines

7:35 African Skies

8:00 Coach

8:30 Documentary — Nomads Of The Wind

It tells the story of Polynesia, its changing nature and the intrepid pioneers who discovered and colonised these islands.

9:15 The Law And Harry McGraw

10:00 News In English

10:25 Movie — Ellington

Starring: Chris Ellison

Success and money are the only currency worth taking about in the tough and streetwise world of professional sports.

Saturday, July 8

2:00 Back To The Future

2:50 Harry And the Hendersons

3:00 Road To Avonlea

4:00 The House Of Eliott

5:00 French Programme

7:30 News Headlines

7:35 Documentary — First Flights

Hosted by Neil Armstrong

This unique series views the history of international aviation through the eyes of aircraft pilots.

8:00 Major Dad

8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

9:15 Dr. Quinn-Medicine Woman

10:00 News In English

10:20 Seekers

12:00 False Arrest

Sunday, July 9

2:00 The Flintstones

2:30 The Mighty Jungle

3:00 Pugwall Summer

3:30 Movie Magic

4:00 Families

5:00 The French Programme

7:30 News Headlines

7:35 Documentary — Living With Health

8:00 Nurses

A day in the life of a nurse can be filled with turmoil, tragedy, heartbreak and frustration — and that's only their personal lives!

8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

9:10 Strathblair

10:00 News In English

10:25 Counterstrike

Global violence, terrorism and injustice: The one definite solution.. counterstrike.

11:30 The Hidden Room

12:00 Grace Under Fire

Monday, July 10

2:00 Animals Of Farthing Wood

2:30 Hey Dad

Imagine how you would cope as a full-time mum... when you're only a dad.

3:00 Documentary — Survival

4:00 Families

5:00 The French Programme

7:30 News Headlines

7:35 Camp Wilder

8:00 Mc Hale's Navy

8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

9:15 Harts Of The West

A comedy about a 41-year-old big-city lingerie salesman whose recent coronary episode has convinced him that it's time to take a chance on his lifelong dream.

10:00 News In English

10:20 The Ruth Rendell Mysteries

11:00 Movie — Les Miserables

Starring: Richard Jordan & Anthony Perkins

The story of a petty thief and his attempt to forget his past only to be hounded through the years by a relentless police inspector.

12:00 Never The Twain

Tuesday, July 11

2:00 Captain Planet

2:30 Mantis

The miraculous story of helping a disabled walk again by bio-electrical energy transformed into the person of MANTIS, a fighter of crime and injustice.

3:00 The Road To Avonlea

3:45 Conceiving The Future

4:00 Families

5:00 The French Programme

7:30 News Headlines

7:35 Movie — Growing Up

On the occasion of Population Day.

The film highlights the dilemmas confronting the families of ten newborn children from vastly different backgrounds in the wake of the U.N.'s Earth Summit in Rio.

8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

9:15 Urban Angel

10:00 News In English

10:20 Death Of Apartheid

The extraordinary story of how black political struggle in South Africa was finally won.

11:10 New York Undercover

12:00 The Maid Of Orleans Act III (Opera)

12:45 Keeping Up Appearances

Wednesday, July 12

2:00 Problem Child

2:30 Super Champs

3:00 Tomorrow's World

3:30 Amazing Stories

4:00 Families

5:00 The French Programme

7:30 News Headlines

7:35 Documentary — Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious Universe

8:00 Anything For A Laugh

8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

9:15 Blood And Belonging

10:00 News In English

10:25 Prism

10:45 The Jacksons

11:30 Not A Penny More, Not A Penny Less

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

DO YOU KNOW...

- ☆ ..... that the "O-O" bird is a native of Hawaii?
- ☆ ..... that snakes are stone deaf? They "hear" by picking up vibrations with their tongues.
- ☆ ..... that you can make seven bars of soap from the fat in your body?
- ☆ ..... that every tenth egg laid is larger than the nine eggs laid before it?
- ☆ ..... that a litre of vinegar weighs more in winter than it does in summer?
- ☆ ..... that there is less sugar in 1 kg of stawberries than in the equivalent weight of lemons?
- ☆ ..... that an egg weighs more when first laid than when it is about to hatch?

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

— *I always tell the truth.* **Enni daa'iman aqool as'sidq.**
— *They met their Waterloo.* **Lahiqat behim al-hazeema.**
— *I enjoyed the visit to Jerash.* **Istamiatu bizzeyara ela Jarash.**
— *Put your mind at rest.* **Areh baalak.**
— *I wish your wife a happy birthday.* **Atamanna lezawjatika eid milad sa'eed.**
— *She lived a pure life.* **Aashat hayatan shareefa.**
— *I know you're an honest man.* **Aaref annaka rajulon ameen.**
— *He is a man of straw.* **Ennahu da'eef ash'shakhsiya.**

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

TIME FOR FUN

☆ *Young Wolfish was due for an operation and he was waiting for the big day he found himself taken care of by a very beautiful young nurse.*

"Nurse," said Wolfish, on the morning before his operation, "I'm really crazy for you... I don't care if I never get well!"

"Maybe you won't," answered the nurse. The doctor who is going to operate on you is my fiancé, and he saw you kissing me this morning."

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

☆ *DENTIST: "Sorry, honey, but I'm all out of gas."*

GIRL: "Oh, not you too!"

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

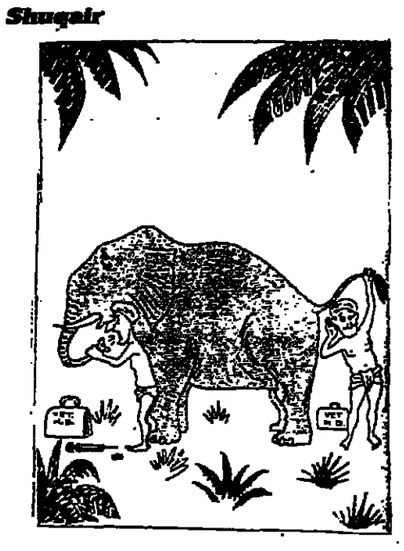
☆ *OFFICIAL: Why do you keep this fish in water on your desk, sir?*

DIRECTOR: Because it is the only one among my personnel that keeps silent and never asks for promotion.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

☆ *One of the jesters drew a picture of a donkey on his companion's mantle. The man, noticing the game, shouted angrily at those who were present: "Would you dare tell me who has rubbed his face in my mantle?"*

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆



"Check him over at your end, then call me back!"

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. *Can you write the nationality of these artists — Ganguin; Dali; Renoir; Titian?*
2. *Which writer had these initials — J.M.B; P.B.S.; H.G.W.; W.B.Y.?*
3. *Henry VIII had six wives. Three of them were Catherine Howard, Jane Seymour and Catherine Parr: Can you name the others?*
4. *What is the better-known name of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington DC? Who works there now?*
5. *Who said: "The rest is silence?"*

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

PUZZLES

Hidden in this puzzle, are all the words in the list next to it. You can find the words by reading in a straight line in any direction — across, backward, up, down, or diagonally. As you find each word, circle in the puzzle and cross it off the list.

WORD FIND PUZZLES

DON'T BUG ME

Ant
Bedbug
Bee
Beetle
Butterfly
Cicada
Cricket
Dragonfly
Firefly
Flea
Grasshopper
Housefly
Ladybug
Locust
Moth
Roach
Spider
Tarantula
Termite
Wasp

M	W	T	N	G	Y	E	O	J	P	K	Q	M
G	L	A	F	U	H	L	C	I	C	A	D	A
U	R	R	S	H	L	T	F	J	T	K	L	R
B	K	A	G	P	Z	E	L	E	E	D	O	N
Y	E	N	S	Y	N	E	E	A	R	L	Q	S
D	J	T	F	S	L	B	A	A	M	I	M	P
A	D	U	E	X	H	H	G	B	I	B	F	T
L	I	L	D	T	K	O	S	M	T	U	N	R
H	C	A	O	W	N	U	P	S	E	T	S	G
C	B	M	N	F	B	S	I	P	C	T	O	U
R	G	C	L	T	P	E	D	I	E	E	T	B
I	A	Y	O	V	J	F	E	O	D	R	P	D
C	E	B	C	I	Q	L	R	L	O	F	U	E
K	Z	A	U	U	M	Y	F	A	E	L	Q	B
E	E	Z	S	Y	T	G	C	S	R	Y	V	U
T	Y	D	T	X	C	H	X	W	B	V	A	W

Tom Hanks — from Forrest to Apollo 13, an everyman for all seasons

By Dolores Barclay
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A spring breeze drifts through an open window, carrying the fresh scent of lavender buds from the jacaranda trees. Somewhere in the distance, a tiny bird calls to its mate.

Otherwise, it's a fairly quiet day at Clavius Base, Tom Hanks' "global headquarters."

Until...

A burst of laughter.

A cascade of words.

"I think you're out of your mind" Hanks roars at the suggestion that he — two-time Oscar winner, Hollywood's nice guy — is the man of the year.

No way.

"Val Kilmer — he's the man of the year. You're behind the times. I think he's great," Hanks says with sincerity about his fellow actor, the new caped crusader. "Was he not amazing?" he asks of Kilmer's portrayal of Doc Holliday in Tombstone. He calls Kilmer's turn "mesmerising" — a word he later uses to describe Sean Penn in Carlito's Way.

Few actors can rein in their egos long enough to lavish such praise on their peers. But Hanks is that rarity: A well-grounded star who isn't too grand to marvel at another actor's talent or make tea for a guest at his office.

The American public first met Hanks in 1980 with the TV sitcom Bosom Buddies. Since then, he's evolved from cocky comedy bunny to compelling artist: The little boy-big man of Big, the ravaged lawyer of Philadelphia, the heroic naif of Forrest Gump, astronaut Jim Lovell in Apollo 13.

Hanks seems to have the platinum touch. He definitely has the golden touch, as witnessed by his back-to-back Academy Awards and Golden Globes.

Hanks is relaxing in a comfortable chair in his office on the lot of Twentieth Century Fox, in a small, unassuming red brick building wedged behind two trailers. He has named his company Clavius Base, a place mentioned in the move 2001: A Space Odyssey. It's an important film for Hanks, who since childhood has adored astronomy and space travel.

"It was amazing," he says of getting to experience zero gravity while filming Apollo 13. "We were all looking at each other thinking, 'can you believe we get to do this?' it was hard work, but filmmaking at its guerrilla best. ...We weren't questioning ourselves about the job. It was the greatest job in the world. Hey, I'd do it for nothing."

Hanks is married to actress Rita Wilson, whom he met while both were filming Volunteers, a 1985 Peace Corps send-up. They have a 5-year-old son, Chester, and Hanks also has two children from his first marriage to actress-producer Samantha Lewes.

Because of his jumbled childhood, family is one of his biggest priorities.

Born Thomas J. Hanks on July 9, 1956, in Concord, California, his parents divorced when he was 5. Unable to support four children, his mother kept the youngest, an infant, while Tom and his older brother and sister went with their father.

How does a 5-year-old handle such separation?

"Ah, there was the beginning of the confusion," Hanks says with a laugh, before turning serious. "I don't recall thinking that much of it. So much of it had to do with being an adventure. There was hurt later on."

Whatever he may have felt, Hanks was able to mask his feelings as his father ferried the family around northern California for his work in the restuarant business before settling in Oakland. Over the years, both parents remarried several times

American actor Tom Hanks and his wife Rita Wilson

and young Tom accumulated numerous steph-brothers and sisters, most of whom he never really knew.

None of this is a big deal to Hanks, who finds humour in those years of meandering relationships.

"My parents pioneered the marriage dissolution laws for the state of California. There really should be a whole wing on some justice building named after them," he says, laughing.

So a troubled childhood is what makes Tom tick? Don't count on it. He's as well-adjusted as the next mondo successful, sensitive artist. He credits his older brother and sister for dispensing values his way.

"We laughed. That's what we did," he says. "We laughed more than anything else and we didn't need other people looking after us. ...We were very self-sufficient and we were totally content."

Hanks got through it all with his values intact and went on to Cal State-Sacramento, where he studied drama. But when he was offered an acting job with the Great Lakes Shakespeare Festival, a rotating repertory company, he dropped out of college.

A few years later found him in New York with a wife and child — and doing Bosom Buddies, cast with Peter Scolari as two friends who dress in drag to live in a females-only hotel.

He easily segued into film, making his feature debut in the 1981 slasher flick He Knows You're Alone. Then, Ron Howard put him with Darryl Hannah in Splash, leading to a string of lame movies, such as Bachelor Party and The Man With One Red Shoe.

Early on, Hanks was self-conscious. "And prone to just utilising self-defence mechanisms that sort of got me jobs in the first place," he says. "I was being funny or manic or approachable or nice because those were all ways of making myself feel better for being there in the first place and willing to do anything because many people weren't and I was."

But then came two of his most stunning, and stunningly different, performances — the acerbic and self-loathing Steve Gold in Punchline and lovable little Josh, the 12-year-old trapped in an adult body in Big, a sweet role that earned him his first Oscar nomination.

"I don't think I was really in tune to what my actual, personal technique was until I made Punchline," Hanks says.

To get there, he had taken some hard knocks, such as a withering assessment from director Steven Stern during 1982's made-for-TV Mazes And Monsters.

"I just said the words and thought that through the magic of movies that was it," Hanks says. Then Stern said, "'that's fake. You're not doing anything. Do it better.' That was very shocking. That rattled my cage."

Ron Howard also nailed Hanks during Splash when the actor appeared on the set one day knowing neither the production schedule nor his lines.

"It took longer to shoot than it should have and when we were done with the scene, Ron said, 'you know you should have been a little more prepared.' ...He didn't yell at me. He probably knew that if he had yelled, I'd be paste for the rest of the day. He just let met know in no uncertain terms that I was starring in this movie and with that comes huge responsibilities, and one of them is to be ready to go. I've never forgotten that."

Hanks has taken on a somber cast as he reflects on his career. He is fully animated when he talks, just the way he is on the screen — illustrated by the determined righteousness of a dying lawyer or Forrest's unaffected grief.

In Apollo 13 it's a look of utter sadness that makes us feel an astronaut's disappointment he will not walk on the moon.

"He's done a really good job of keeping things in perspective," Ron Howard says of his star. "He's still very dedicated to the idea of fulfilling each scene's potential, putting in a good day's work, being professional.

"His talent has clearly grown. He has more confidence in his ideas and also in his screen presence."

Hanks has been chided for appearing in truly awful movies such as Turner And Hooch. But within

Tom Hanks in the movie Forrest Gump

the past five years, around the time he played the alcoholic coach in A League Of Their Own, he obviously has become more comfortable with the decision-making process of his career.

The reason largely had to do with his marriage.

"I had another child and I finally felt I was part of an extended family that wasn't going anywhere. The age thing really does come into play in a big way. By the time you're 35, if you haven't figured out things by then, maybe you should get some help," says Hanks, who will be 39 in July.

"I had just settled down. ...Rita's family is very old world and very inclusive and very tight. I kind of won the bonus as far as that goes."

His eyes almost mist up when he talks about his wife. "I think in the best ways that a man and a woman can complement and inspire each other, I think that's what Rita and I have," he says.

Tom Hanks talks about Apollo 13

Question: Did you follow Apollo 13 at the time?

Answer: I always thought it was a great story. ...I thought that it was kind of forgotten and very epic. I remember rushing home from school to see what was going to happen, waiting for (ABC-TV science reporter) Jules Bergman to explain what was going on in the spacecraft.

It always hung in with me at the time, the concept of these three guys slowly drifting back to Earth. I had spoken to a number of people over the course of years and asked, 'you ever want to write anything about Apollo 13?' and then Jim Lovell was putting together the book that Ron's company snatched up the rights to, and I didn't even know a script was being written until I got a call from my agent and that was it.

Q: You filmed the capsule segments flying in a NASA KC-135 jet, a weightless simulator. Did you lose your cookies?

A: There was one time I really wanted to because I felt absolutely horrible. We had gone down to experience it and we had taken our tests and then when they decided we actually were going to shoot on the plane, we went down a day early. ...So I thought I'd try it without the motion sickness drugs. I wanted to see if I could handle it because people who do this all the time don't use the drugs. ...Well, my landy. Oh, it was bad. I'll tell you, I've never felt that sick. I have never felt that bad.

We all thought we were going to get nauseous. We all thought we were going to be little limp rag dolls floating around.

Q: Any other hardships filming Apollo 13?

A: It wasn't a huge soundstage but it was a soundstage refrigerated. We had to climb into this thing (space capsule) and position ourselves. The camera moved more than we did.

Q: This is an ensemble work?

A: I'm not in a third of the movie because it's mission control and we're up in space. ...There was a period there when it was me, Kevin and Bill in every shot, every day.

Hollywood meets NASA in movie about aborted moon mission

By Marcia Dunn
The Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida — The closest Tom Hanks has ever been to space is space camp — and on a plane.

The star of the movie Apollo 13 has more than four hours of zero-gravity under his spacesuit belt, all of it aboard NASA's KC-135 aircraft, also known as the vomit comet.

The KC-135 zooms up and down, alternating between 2-g, or twice the gravity on Earth, and brief spurts of weightlessness. This goes on and on until, well, you can imagine.

Director Ron Howard wanted realism and he got it.

"Ron Howard really followed it down the line," said Apollo 13's Jim Lovell, commander of the aborted moon mission. Some directors would have "put this thing on Mars with David Bowie or something like that."

Apollo 13, which opened June 30 in the United States, is based on Lovell's 1994 book, Lost Moon: The Perilous Voyage Of Apollo 13.

A quarter-century later, Apollo 13 remains NASA's only in-space disaster. An oxygen tank in the spaceship ruptured en route to the moon on April 13, 1970, and cancelled what would have been the third manned lunar landing. Lovell, Fred Haise and Jack Swigert swung around the moon without stopping and made it back to Earth — barely.

Two-time Academy Award-winner Hanks stars as Lovell, with Bill Paxton as Haise and Kevin Bacon as Swigert.

The other "Actornaut" — the astronauts' name for the actors — is Gary Sinise, who portrays Thomas "Ken" Mattingly. Mattingly was bumped off the flight after being exposed to measles.

"Tom Hanks has more weightless time in a zero-G airplane than any astronaut who ever flew," Apollo 15 commander David Scott, a technical adviser to the film, said during a visit to Cape Canaveral this spring.

"Good for him," interrupted Haise.

"Yeah, good for him," Scott said, laughing. "At last count, he had over four hours at 20-second clips."

That's a lot of ups and downs.

Besides flying on the KC-135 out of Johnson Space Centre in Houston last year, the "actornauts" spent a few days at U.S. Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama, training in a shuttle mock-up and learning how to handle planes. They visited Kennedy Space Centre and studied NASA films of the mission.

To further ensure accuracy, Lovell took Hanks up in his plane and invited him to his Horseshoe Bay, Texas, home. Haise strained to remember for the sound-effects crew what pumps and master alarms sounded like in space. Scott, the seventh man to walk on the moon, dug out his old flight checklists and Apollo operations handbook. (Swigert died of cancer in 1982).

"By the middle of the movie, they (actors) were carrying these checklists around like they'd been doing it all their lives," Scott said.

At the same time, Space Works Inc. created replicas of the command module and lunar module. The replicas included some original Apollo 13 parts.

Each module had to come apart like "a giant jigsaw puzzle" to allow for a multitude of camera angles, Gary said. "What's more, the modules that flew on the KC-135 had to be able to withstand up to 9-g in case of an emergency landing.

Space Works discovered original, large-frame format films of Saturn 5 launches and offered it to Howard for his launch scenes. But he wasn't satisfied with the quality and opted for one-tenth scale models of the rocket and pad, enhancing these scenes by computer.

Howard also wanted to re-create the coldness and dampness inside the crippled spaceship. So for two months, the temperature inside the Apollo 13 stages at Universal Studios in Los Angeles hovered around 38 degrees Fahrenheit (3 Celsius).

The re-entry scenes were especially difficult.

Workers put boards under the crane that held the command module and shook the boards to mimic the vibration of a spaceship plunging through the atmosphere.

Other workers fanned a fire and blew gas past the command module's windows to imitate the ionization of gases. Still others dripped water on the actors' faces to depict the condensation that shook loose as the real spacecraft hurtled toward the Pacific Ocean.

Hugh Grant soils clean-cut image on Sunset Boulevard

By Maggie Fox
Reuter

LONDON — Hugh Grant, who has blemished his clean-cut image by being arrested after allegedly having sex with a prostitute, is Britain's favourite romantic male lead and the modest half of its Most Beautiful movie couple.

Grant, whose foppish good looks have won the hearts of film audiences around the world, was fully in character when he apologised for the embarrassment he caused after being charged with "lewd behaviour" in Los Angeles.

"Last night I did something completely insane," Grant said in a statement released through his publicist. "I have hurt people I love and embarrassed people I work with. For both things, I am more sorry than I can ever possibly say."

Police alleged Grant picked up a 23-year-old prostitute on Sunset Boulevard and drove her to a nearby residential street. There, they engaged in "a lewd act," they said. "Vice officers walked up to the car and observed the act."

The 34-year-old Oxford graduate is best known for his lead role in Four Weddings And A Funeral.

The offbeat, low-budget comedy was an instant hit last year, taking nearly £200 million ($320 million) at the box office and becoming the most successful British film ever.

Grant plays a self-deprecating, upper-class buffoon who, despite bumbling attempts at romance, wins the pretty girl in the end. He has certainly won the pretty woman in real life.

Grant and model and actress Liz Hurley are the most photographed couple in Britain, often compared to a modern-day Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton.

Hurley, the porcelain brunette chosen as the face of Estee Lauder cosmetics, got herself splashed across front pages by wearing revealing Versace gowns.

Her acting career has been dwarfed by Grant's but, in modest style, he constantly defers to her.

"Liz stopped fancying me years ago," Grant has been quoted as saying. "She encourages the myth now because I'm her product. She thinks the more I am liked, the better it is for business."

Although the pair have been publicly faithful to one another for seven years, Grant admits to enjoying the exotic.

"I have always found strangers sexy, so if an actress is still a stranger, then it's real sexiness," he said in a recent newspaper interview about his frequent love scenes.

He also cheerfully details his shortcomings, telling a British newspaper this week — before his arrest — about the most embarrassing incident of his life.

He was once caught examining his bottom in a toilet on a French train. He was inspecting his piles (haemorrhoids).

Grant confesses he feels awkward with the idea of marriage and children. "I find it difficult to say 'I love you' on and off screen without embarrassment," he said.

"My dream marriage would be in a big castle with enough space so you and your wife can avoid each other, with lots of servants to bring the children down in sailor suits before bed."

Grant was born in West London. Ex-girlfriends have described him as painfully shy but blessed with good looks charm.

He played rugby and did well enough in examinations to win admittance to elite Oxford University, where he earned a second-class degree in English.

In 1982, while at university, he got a role in Privileged, a film about undergraduates. He briefly became an advertising copywriter, plugging Brylcreem and Mighty White Bread.

But the acting bug had bitten him and he won film roles in White Mischief in 1987 and Maurice, a movie about a gay man that won him the Best Actor Award at the Venice Film Festival.

After Four Weddings And A Funeral Grant was advised to drop his role in Miramax's The Englishman Who Went Up A Hill But Came Down A Mountain. But he made the film, and refused to break

British actor Hugh Grant and girlfriend Elizabeth Hurley

the $6 million budget by asking for a salary increase.

Another small-budget film, An Awfully Big Adventure, casts him as a malicious bisexual provincial theatre director. Grant also stars in Twentieth Century Fox's Nine Months, just starting distribution.

Awareness, prompt action are key in fight against meningitis

By Rima Cortbawi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In the struggle to control meningitis, "special attention must be paid towards educating individuals about the treacherous nature of the disease and the dangers of overlooking it," said consultant neurologist Husni Rashid.

An outcome of inflammation of the meninges (membranes lining the brain and spinal chord), according to Dr. Rashid, meningitis can be caused by either bacterial or viral infection — the former being by far more serious. "Concentration must be made on combating bacterial meningitis," he said.

The most common types of bacterial meiningitis are meningococcal, pneumococcal and Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib). "The most serious of these types is the meningococcal germ, which is fatal if not treated at the right time," said Dr. Rashid.

Meningococcal bugs attack with severity and do not take much time to destroy the patient's health. "It only takes a few hours for cases to deteriorate and cause death," said Najwa Khoury, professor in the Department of Paediatrics and Infectious Diseases at the Jordan University Hospital.

The Ministry of Health statistics rightfully classify the disease into the two categories of menigococcal and non-meningococcal meningitis. "Reported cases for the years between 1990 and 1993 range between 100 and 170 incidents per year of meningo coccal infection: where as for non-meningococcal conditions, the reports for years 1988 to 1993 show a range of cases between 29 and 81 on a yearly basis," Dr. Khoury said.

Pneumococcal and Hib meningitis are less life-threatening than meningococcal, but they also cause irreversible damage if not treated at the right time. "Resulting damage can be mental retardation, blindness, deafness, weakness of the limbs or epilepsy, etc.," said Dr. Rashid.

The cunning aspect of meningitis lies in the fact that its symptoms could be indicative of any other less serious malfuction of the body, according to Dr. Rashid. The symptoms include fever, headache, vomitting, blurry vision neck stiffness or confusion and rash, said Dr. Rashid. "However, not all these symptoms appear at once, and very often when some symptoms such as headache, fever or drowsiness show up people mistake the real cause with a 'flu'".

In fact, it is this wrongful assumption that very often makes it difficult for physicians later on to uncover accurately the nature of the causative bug and acquire accurate statistics for different meningitis germs, according to Dr. Khoury. "Preliminary symptoms of meningitis often drive people straight to pharmacies to get medication for flu. But these medicines suppress the growth of (not kill) microorganisms, making them difficult to identify with precision when patients are finally admitted into hospital for diagnosis of their case."

An estimate of 80 per cent of the cases admitted to hospital have received medication before venturing in for medical consultation, she said. "This is probably why, our reported figures cannot be very accurate not to mention under-estimated."

Incidence rates could also be under-represented because many doctors and hospitals are not particular about reporting each individual case, according to infectious disease specialist and internist Jamal Wadi. Also, difficulty in diagnosis, said Dr. Wadi, arise mainly from partially treated conditions, which confuse physicians, late presentation of conditions and unusual presentation of the disease.

"This can be overcome by patients refraining from abusing antibiotics, and physicians being well-informed on the disease before proceeding to diagnose," he added.

Proper diagnosis can only be confirmed by examination of the cerebrospinal fluid extracted by a needle from the lower back, said Dr. Rashid. "Preliminary results come up after a quarter of an hour so that physicians can lose no time in acting against the disease by giving the patient heavy doses of special antibiotics to fight the microorganisms."

The final results of the culture obtained after 48 hours then enable the physicians to make certain modifications on given medication, if need be, he added. "Normally however, initial treatment turns out to be suitable."

Following this life-saving step, antibiotic presentation is continued for 10 to 15 days, according to Dr. Rashid, and patients could go home once their high temperature drops back to normal (usually after a week from admission into hospital).

Thus the virulent effects of the disease can be spared when patients and physicians have enough awareness to act wisely and promptly, said Dr. Wadi.

In meningococcal meningitis, if the life of the patient is saved, by quick action, the medication used restores the condition of the patient back to normal, said Dr. Khoury.

With pneumooccal meningitis, 60 per cent of the cases are completely saved from any effects of the disease, she said, but the rest may, after treatment, suffer a mild deficit. "However, in any case, quick and well-guided action is very important to control and alleviate the effects of the serious disease."

Promising treatment found for adult leukaemia

BOSTON (R) — Offering a chance to avoid the virtual death sentence faced by adults suffering from an aggressive form of leukaemia, researchers have accidentally found that an anti-AIDS drug combined with Interferon Alfa can halt the progression of the disease.

Two teams of researchers reporting in the New England Journal of Medicine studied the effects of the drug combination on adult T-cell leukaemia-lymphoma, a cancer of the blood caused by a virus.

In its most aggressive form, death from the cancer usually comes in four to six months. Anti-cancer drugs work only in about one-third of cases and the benefits often are temporary.

But the researchers found when the AIDS drug AZT (also known as Zidovudine) was added to treatments with Interferon Alfa, one of the natural virus-fighting substances the body manufactures, the impact on the cancer could be dramatic.

The treatment was discovered almost by accident when Dr. Parkash Gill and colleagues at the University Of Southern California School of Medicine in Los Angeles treated the leukaemia of a patient also infected with the AIDS virus.

When they combined AZT for his AIDS with Interferon Alfa being tried to halt the virus-caused cancer, the results were rapid and dramatic. Neither of the research teams could explain why the treatment is effective.

Although adult T-cell leukaemia-lymphoma "remains one of the most difficult cancers to treat," Dr. Robert Gallo of the National Cancer Institute said in an editorial in the Journal, the two studies "may herald a change in that situation."

Scientists discover genetic cause for heart attacks

WELLINGTON (AFP) — Researchers here have discovered a genetic cause for up to one sixth of all heart attacks, paving the way for a simple test to find those at high risk of heart disease, the Evening Post has reported.

The discovery was made by the Auckland University School of Medicine in collaboration with California's Stanford University and its results were published in the British medical journal The Lancet.

Team leader Associate Professor Stephen McMahon said they discovered that a gene carried by about 15 per cent of New Zealanders doubled the risk they would develop coronary heart disease.

"It's very significant — this is a factor which is associated with the same degree of risk as having diabetes, but it affects many more people," he said.

With further research, a genetic test could be added to current heart disease screening techniques within a couple of years.

Researchers have known for years that heart disease runs in families but until now have found genetic markers for only a tiny fraction of cases.

Dr. McMahon said they were not sure exactly how the genetic factor increases the risk. Surprisingly they have found the increased risk comes regardless of whether a person has high blood pressure.

He said those who had the gene were not necessarily doomed to face a heart attack.

The male menopause

By Rolf H. Simen

The American andrologist August A. Werner first introduced the term "Climacterium virile" back in 1939 to describe the male menopause. He compiled a catalogue of symptoms associated with this condition and so became the first doctor to employ hormone treatment for men. However, even today there is still much scepticism concerning the existence of this clinical condition. For hitherto it has remained unproven whether men also undergo a fundamental change in hormonal activity since, unlike women, they are capable of retaining their reproductive functions until old age.

ENDOCRINOLOGICAL studies have clearly AL studies have clearly proven that from the age of 35 the production of the sexual hormones in men begins to decline, a process which intensifies with advancing age. However, little is known of the impact of these changes on men's mental and physical health. Critics claim that Werner's catalogue of menopausal symptoms was based purely on men suffering from a pathological hormone deficiency.

Faced with a dearth of scientific studies on health men, the psychologist Professor Annette Degenhardt from the University of Frankfrut/Main set out to compile her own research data. Currently she is conducting a survey of 400 working men who describe themselves as healthy and whose professions — lawyers, doctors, teachers, senior civil servants and executives — often entail high stress situations. The interviewees were asked to name which of 30 recognised symptoms associated with the male menopause applied to them and to assess on a scale from 1 to 3 the degree of debility they suffer.

The symptoms and their frequency were as follows: Increased irritability (63 per cent), failing memory (64 per cent), fatigue (69 per cent), lack of concentration (63 per cent), back pains (66 per cent), diminishing libido (53 per cent), sleeping disorders (54 per cent), excessive need for sleep (53 per cent). Less common complaints were palpitations (11 per cent), constriction of the throat (11 per cent), propensity to weep (17 per cent), nausea (19 per cent), hot flushes (23 per cent). Twenty-eight per cent of men aged between 30-44 and over 54 per cent among the 55-65 age-group also complained of erectile impotence.

Degenhardt suspected that if the condition of Climacterium virile really does exist then it would manifest itself primarily in disorders to the generally autonomous vegetative nervous system, in the form of hot flushes, chills and also diminishing sexual drive. Consequently, any analysis of the complaints should reveal two clearly distinct sets of symptom groups: The first is characterised primarily by psychological problems, such as depression, low self-esteem or a general feeling that life has nothing much left to offer. The second group displayed vegetative symptoms, such as hot flushes, shivering, nausea, impotence and diminishing sexual drive. The results of a statistical analysis technique (factor analysis) tended to confirm this assumption. Significant age differences in regard to the composition of these two symptom groups only manifest themselves in a comparison of the 35-54 age-groups, with latter falling more frequently into the second symptom group.

The studies conducted by Degenhardt in cooperation with the endocrinologist Professor Helmuth Schmidt show that the menopausal symptoms are indeed experienced by otherwise healthy men. The two researchers performed tests on the physical condition of 60 healthy men between 33 and 65 at the German Clinic for Diagnostics in Wiesbaden. From the analysis of their results, they establish a clear correlation between age and a decline in vitality and muscle strength and a marked link between the subjective perception of menopausal symptoms and physical prowess among the 45-54 age-group. On the basis of their findings, the scientists conclude that further research is necessary on the impact of sexual hormone activity, particularly of free testosterone on the subjective symptoms in men. Supported by funding from Schering AG in Berlin, these studies are now being conducted by an augmented research team at the German Clinic for Diagnostics — German Research Service.

Older women risk cervical cancer by shunning easy test

By Lauran Neergaard
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Many older women are at particular risk of invasive cervical cancer because they are not using a simple test that can detect the disease early enough to cure or even prevent it, researchers reported.

A study of 481 women diagnosed with cervical cancer after the disease became advanced found almost 29 per cent had never had a pap smear, a test recommended every one to three years.

Their average age was 64 — 20 years older than the average properly tested woman, researchers report in the June edition of the American Journal of Public Health.

"Every case of invasive cervical cancer is preventable," said study author Dr. Dwight Janerich of the University of Utah. "My hope is that this study kicks off a new chapter of concern about the pap test."

The pap smear is a simple test in which cervical cells are scraped off and checked for malignancies and for precancerous cell changes. If they're found and removed, cervical cancer is prevented.

Annual smears are recommended once women reach age 18 or become sexually active. After three consecutive normal tests, doctors may recommend that low-risk women have the test as seldom as every three years.

The pap smear was credited with causing decades of steady decline in the rates of invasive cervical cancer, but the declines leveled off in the 1980s. To discover why, Dr. Janerich and colleagues at Yale University studied 481 Connecticut women diagnosed with invasive cancer between 1985 and 1990.

Older women who had never been tested were most at risk, the study found.

But they weren't the only problem. Of women who had had at least one pap smear in their lifetimes, 32.8 per cent had not sought one in at least five years, much too long to detect early cancer, Dr. Janerich said. Another 15 per cent didn't return for proper follow-up after an abnormal or inconclusive pap.

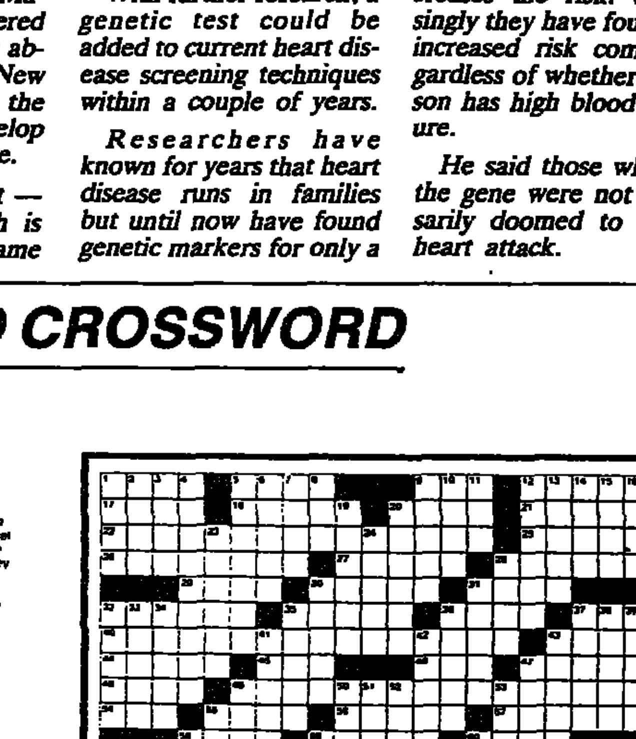
And laboratory workers missed some evidence of cancer or precancerous abnormalities in at least 6.9 per cent of the cases, Dr. Janerich said.

Dr. Janerich reached that figure by retrieving the actual cervical samples that doctors had kept for 137 of the patients and having them reanlaysed by two independent pathologists unaware of the original diagnoses. Because those samples weren't available for all the patients, the number misdiagnosed could be higher, he said.

In Dr. Janerich's study, 118 women were diagnosed within three years of their last screening, but he was unable to prove why. In addition to lab errors, doctors must take a proper cell sample to detect cancer, something his study couldn't measure. And some cervical cancer simply grows so fast that it can appear in as a little as three years, which is why some doctors insist women be tested annually.

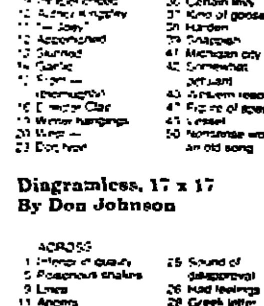
WEEKEND CROSSWORD

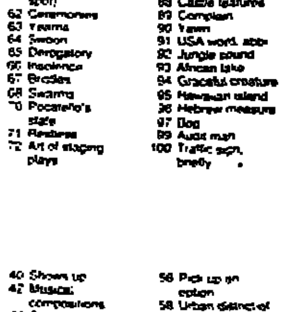
ACCORDING TO HOYLE
By Harold B. Counts



Diagramless, 17 x 17
By Don Johnson

SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



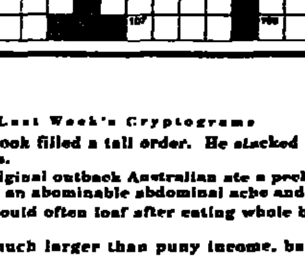


Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Short order cook filled a tall order. He stacked a plate of nine pancakes.
2. After an aboriginal outback Australian ate a peck of green apples, he got an abominable abdominal ache and cramps.
3. Hungry oaf would often loaf after eating whole big loaf of rye bread.
4. With outgo much larger than puny income, bankruptcy will beckon.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. CYHAAL ADKQW LDEVQ JDSRDL RHJNPB AWH YHS JWNPCBDV TDIHD TBIHY. — By Earl Ireland
2. NEOHIXRA'H UPIERA EGZ O IRGBRIIXR OS ERA BOILERS IEGI EOHHRZ NERS EPI. HER LGXXRZ OI "UPIERA'H NEOHIXRA." — By Duane H. McGuigy
3. LNS KUA LPLISW KU WHYTUPSN RELR PLMK BUBADLN SMRSNRLHMSNY RUWLK ELFS PUNS TEARIBLE RELM RLDSMK? — By Ed Buddleson
4. WITH SKLBCEZWFUL KO ZKOD STKOB AUUA FPOTLD ACETTIC ACETTIC SKY SPY. — By Frank N. Stein



ANSWERS

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

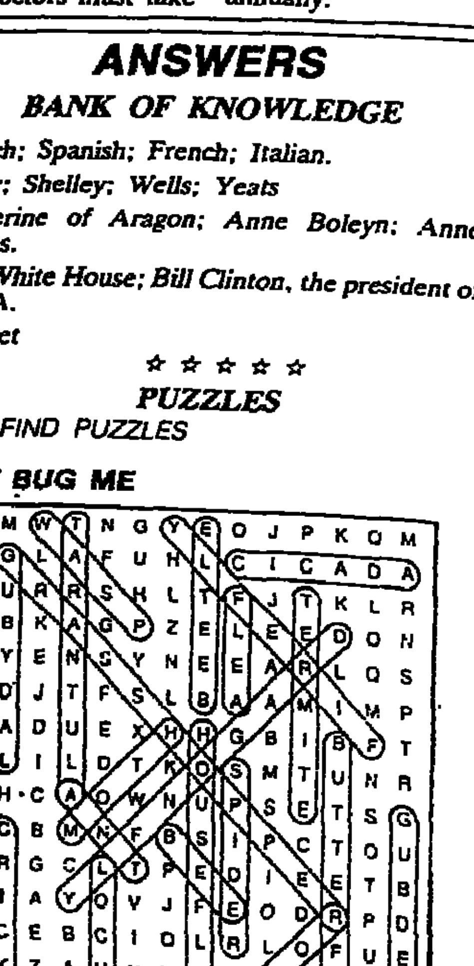
1. French; Spanish; French; Italian.
2. Barry; Shelley; Wells; Yeats
3. Catherine of Aragon; Anne Boleyn; Anne of Cleves.
4. The White House; Bill Clinton, the president of the U.S.A.
5. Hamlet

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

PUZZLES

WORD FIND PUZZLES

DON'T BUG ME



Palestinians look for ways to plant a homegrown democracy

Groups in the occupied territories are struggling to define a democratic society **Jon Immanuel of the Jerusalem Post** reports

WHEN Haidar Abdul Shafi, who was chief Palestinian negotiator at the 1991 Madrid peace talks, unveiled his "Movement for Building Democracy" two weeks ago in Jerusalem, he pointed to one thing he thought distinguished it from other Palestinian groups dissatisfied with the Oslo accords: Its emphasis on law and democracy.

While the other movements also consider themselves bastions of law and democracy, the only apparently new thing about Dr. Abdul Shafi's group is its assumption that Palestinians will respond to a political movement whose main aim is "the dissemination of democratic culture in Palestinian society."

The problem is, how do you disseminate democracy in a society with no democratic tradition?

"Polls show that the vast majority of Palestinians are pro-democracy. But they are extremely fuzzy about what this means," says Ranjit Singh, programme officer of the National Democratic Institute (NDI) (funded by USAID, a U.S. government agency), which has held democracy workshops around the world and now does so in Palestinian towns.

For political reasons, the American-based democracy advocates cannot discuss the issue of Islam and democracy. But nor can they ignore it. Hamas largely boycotts the NDI's meetings and sometimes discourages others from attending.

But the NDI, with its worldwide contacts, can find other Islamic interlocutors. "People were particularly interested in the Bangladeshi model. An Islamic opposition figure from the Awami League who spent 12 years in prison came and talked of the need for non-violence and a free press," says Mr. Singh.

The Palestinian Centre for Democracy and Elections (PCDE), under the auspices of Mubarak Awad's Centre for the Study of Non-Violence, does address the Islamic issue, and its meetings include Hamas supporters.

"Some people see democracy as conflicting with Islam," notes Lucy Nusseibeh, its director. In fact, town meetings organised by the PCDE produced "heated discussion, particularly around the questions of the *Shoora* (Islamic consensus) tradition versus democracy, and the question of women's rights."

"People are worried by anything Western. We tell them democracy is not just a Western expression. It is a social and political term, which like aspirin can come in many different names," says PCDE's civic programme assistant Hazem Outteneh, who is a journalist.

The Palestinians present a different kind of challenge than other emerging political systems. "What is rare here is the degree of politicisation in Palestinian society. We sent two young women to Peru. They came back and said how apathetic Peruvians were to politics."

In another case the NDI sent Palestinian observers to Namibia. They returned impressed by the efficiency of the elections but also by the fear of small-party candidates faced with the prospect of an 80 per cent landslide by the largest party, SWAPO, which could then change the constitution to suit itself.

In talks with groups like the NDI, the PCDE, the Washington-based International Federation for Electoral Systems (IFES) and the Palestinian Centre for Peace and Democracy (PCPD), it emerged that the main problem is that Palestinians do not know "how to address an elected government" — whether through letters to representatives, citizens' pressure groups, radio talk shows or other means.

The intifada, spontaneous expression of popular attitudes as it may have been, created problems for the Arabs too. "The older generation is concerned that the younger generation may be ungovernable," says Mr. Singh. Another problem he says, is that the intifada left a large gap in the education of many people now of voting age for whom throwing stones was considered an act of political participation. Yet the intifada is seen by many as the quintessence of democracy because it was "the representation of the will of the people."

Democracy as protest is a strong component of Palestinian political thought.

IFES's Marwan Burgan once asked a 15-year-old what he would do if the local political candidate was a crook. "I would go out and demonstrate," he said. This was the wrong answer. The correct answer would have been, "I would go out and canvass for another candidate to oppose him." Protest is nevertheless self-expression and an important component of democracy. The key is to channel it.

Democracy is not the preserve of those who protest the Oslo accords. The Bethlehem-based National Democratic Coalition was founded by former supporters of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Recognising that the Oslo accord is an established fact, the NDC decided the goal should be to improve it through democratic means, not protest it through violence.

The role of women, as Islamic and social traditions reassert themselves, is pivotal. Religious women, often considered passive, are potentially key agents for change, arguing in town meetings that social traditions and Islam are not the same things and that the former are responsible for keeping women back.

The NDI trawls traditional society for examples of democratic processes. *Diwan* council elections, in which all the men from the clan vote, are democraic in some ways, but exclude women. "Women say 'I should vote,' men say 'I would accept that, but I'm not sure my friends would'," Mr. Singh says, noting that the men have more reservations about changing the tradition than women.

But change is not impossible. Mr. Singh, who spent four years in Bahrain, Syria, Egypt and Jordan, says: "I have never seen an Arab people as sophisticated about politics as the Palestinians, particularly their ability to discriminate between different sources of information."

Israel has contributed to this in both negative and positive ways. It is difficult not to become politically aware under a prolonged military occupation. But since Palestinians recognise that Israel is "a democracy for Israelis," they are not entirely negative in their view of the country's political system, especially its proportional representation.

But this recognition does no extend to inviting Jewish Knesset members to address Palestinian meetings. "I think people would not come if we brought Jewish Knesset members," says Ms. Nusseibeh. But until recently it would have been "unheard of" to invite someone like Ibrahim Lughod, the vice-rector of Bir *Zeit* University, who grew up and taught politics in America, to speak in a conservative market town like Dhahiriya (south of Hebron), says Mr. Outteneh. The PCDE has frequently invited Arab Knesset members to speak.

"Israeli political culture is more influential than most Palestinians will readily admit," says Mr. Singh. "When I moderate a discussion of 100 in Gaza City, the Israeli experience almost never comes up in public, but after wards they come up and talk about it."

The most hopeful aspect, says Mr. Outteneh, is that at the meetings held by the PCDE, people practice a fundamental aspect of democracy. "They are able to listen to others. People are sceptical about the situation. But they are not so violent when they discuss the issues. After talking about democracy, people see a different reality."

Iran defends bid to make peace in northern Iraq

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Iran on Wednesday defended its role in mediating a truce between rival Kurdish factions in northern Iraq, saying it could not afford to remain a spectator to the fall-out from the conflict.

Iraq criticised Iran the previous day for brokering an extension of a ceasefire between the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP).

Such contacts with rebel Iraqi Kurds could hamper efforts to normalise ties between the two countries, Iraq warned.

But an Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tehran could not sit back and watch the "negative effect of the conflict when Iraq is incapable of enforcing its sovereignty in the northern part of its country."

"We support peace and stability at our borders and continue to encourage Iraqi Kurds to end the fighting," he said, quoted by state radio.

Iran's official news agency IRNA reported Monday that indirect talks between the PUK and KDP on their year-old conflict in northern Iraq took place at the weekend with Iranian mediation.

They agreed to an "Iranian offer" to extend for another month the truce in place since April and due to expire on July 15.

The news prompted reaction from Baghdad with an official Iraqi spokesman denouncing Iran's mediation as "a flagrant violation of Iraq's internal affairs."

"In continuing the contacts with the Kurdish traitors, Iran is encouraging these outlaws to carry on the state of instability in northern Iraq," he said.

Islamists poised to win in Zarqa

(Continued from page 12

Governor Tarawneh rejected the accusations and attributed the low turnout to the tendency of people living in Zarqa registering to vote in their towns of origin, rather than in their city of origin, a problem resulting from the diversity of the city, whose residents have their roots in all parts of the country.

But physician Khalil Abu Hussein, a resident of Zarqa, interprets low registration figures as a reflection of people's lack of expectations that a new council will improve their lot.

Tired of unfulfilled election promises, people will prefer to use election day (a national holiday this year) to go on picnics, Dr. Abu Hussein said. Both Dr. Abu Hussein and his brother Suhail expect the Islamists, who are better organised than their rivals and can count on their followers' support, to win the day.

Islamic Action Bloc's Mamdouh Al Muheisin said his block had collected an entire file of what they charge as violations of the election process by government officials since voter registration began. The bloc has also raised a complaint to the Ministry of Municipalities and Rural Affairs and the Environment, protesting against the start by the National Bloc of canvassing prior to the official opening of the campaign on Monday, July 3, also the first day of the registration of candidates' period.

The complaint went unnoticed, according to Sheikh Omari, and the National Bloc's banners stayed in place. But Mr. Muheisin offers another explanation why his Islamic Bloc has withheld the names of its candidates until the official start of candidate registration, namely the bloc's fear that the government would put pressure on candidates to withdraw from the list.

For the first time, municipal elections all over the Kingdom are taking place on the same day following the enactment last year of a new municipalities law. In preparation for implementation of the new law the government in the course of last year dissolved all elected city councils, substituting them by appointed temporary councils.

Sheikh Omari, mayor at the time of the dissolution of the city council last May, strongly criticised the government's step as unnecessary and illegal. The first to be dissolved, Zarqa council was abolished only 10 days prior to the end of its regular term, and only 24 hours after the closing of registration of candidates for elections for a new council, when preparations for the election campaign had gotten well under way.

According to Governor Tarawneh, who has filled the position of mayor pending new elections, the government's dissolution of the councils was a necessary step in setting a unified election date for all city councils in the country. In addition, he argues, "dissolution of the councils prior to new elections was meant to prevent exploitation by the ruling council of the means at its disposal for election purposes."

Critics of the government's decision to dissolve city councils, and to substitute them by government-appointed committees, have pointed out that the measure did away with election campaigns in a year which saw the signing of a peace treaty with Israel, and the beginning of the process of normalisation with a long-time enemy, which the Islamists oppose.

But politics are conspicuously absent from the election programmes of both blocs, which focus instead on providing long-awaited services to the citizens of Zarqa. "Our programme of services was developed by those concerned. We in the National Bloc are against a certain political group controlling the municipal council, which should be ruled by democratic principles and not by a specific political idea," said Dr. Fayyad.

Sudan threatens to cancel treaties

(Continued from page 1)

"Allah has willed that Islam is revived from Sudan and Islamic religion will flow along with the waters of the Nile to cleanse Egypt from obscenity," he added.

Mr. Tourabi made the remarks during a public lecture earlier this week in Medani, capital of Gezira state in central Sudan, the news agency said.

Sudanese Deputy Minister for Information Abu Bakr Shanqiti has arrived in Cairo for the first public visit by a Khartoum official to Egypt since the Cairo crisis erupted between the two countries.

Mr. Shanqiti was to attend an Arab League gathering of ministers of information on Wednesday which will discuss "the role of the media in facing the phenomenon of terrorism and extremism," the official Egyptian news agency MENA said.

Most of the 13 Arab nations attending are to be represented by their ministers, including Egyptian Information Minister Safwat Al Sherif.

Egypt should strike "terrorists" attacking it from Sudan just as Israel retaliates against guerrillas in South Lebanon, the government weekly Al Musawar said.

"Hunting down terrorists at their sources across borders has become an all but legitimate act based on numerous international precedents," wrote editor-in-chief Makram Mohammad Ahmad.

"Israel chases across its borders and openly kills Hizbollah leaders" in South Lebanon, "even if Hizbollah does not as a legitimate resistance movement," he said.

"So why does Cairo chain its own hands from reaching after terrorists?"

A top adviser to Mr. Mubarak said Sudan may not have executed the plan to kill the president in Addis Ababa, but it probably "encouraged and aided" the attackers.

"What I have seen tells me perhaps there was a Sudanese role not in implementation, but in aiding and encouraging" the attack on June 26, Mr. Mubarak's political advisor Osama Al Baz said, quoted by MENA.

"It has been proven that one of (the attackers) carried a Sudanese passport and false identity papers," Mr. Baz told an audience of students in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria late Tuesday.

Ethiopia said Wednesday that Egyptian police sent to investigate the failed assassination attempt did nothing but spread rumours from their hotels.

"The Egyptian police started circulating all sorts of baseless rumours from their hotel sanctuaries at the early stage when nothing was known and nothing could have been said about the plot," Ethiopia's ministry of internal affairs said in a statement.

"We had to completely stop all contacts with them and concentrate on doing our job," added the statement.

It was the latest in a volley of tit-for-tat accusations between the two countries following the gunbattle around Mr. Mubarak's armoured limousine as he arrived for an Organisation of African Unity summit in Addis Ababa.

Security sources in Cairo were quoted as saying on Saturday that three Ethiopian security officials took part in the attack.

Egyptian Information Minister Sherif denied on Tuesday that Egypt accused Ethiopia of being involved in the attempted killing.

PLO and Israel in intense effort

(Continued from page 1)

shall appoint a special joint committee to see what are the best ways to guarantee free elections ... and on the other hand full security," he said.

Israel has indicated it may want to hold onto Hebron, where 450 Jews live amidst 110,000 Palestinians, throughout the autonomy phase which is to last until May 1999.

In the second stage in 1996, Israel will leave other towns and villages and there would be joint Israeli-Palestinian patrols of rural areas. A third troop pullback, from rural areas, would take place in mid-1997, Mr. Peres said.

Negotiators still must resolve the exact maps of the autonomous regions, the transfer of civilian authorities, the participation of Jerusalem residents in the elections and the size of the Palestinian council, the daily Maariv said.

Israel and the PLO also began a new round of talkes in Cairo on agreement on the transfer of another batch of civil powers to the Palestinians.

The session here covers statistics, gas/petrol, postal services, agriculture, insurance, municipal affairs, labour and industry/trade. The two sides have already reached agreement on the last two dossiers.

"We hope to finalise an agreement on the eight spheres under discussion this week," said chief PLO negotiator Jamil Al Tarifi.

Meanwhile a settler leader called on Israelis to shoot to kill armed Palestinian police who try to stop them on West Bank roads.

"There is no choice," said Pinhas Wallerstein, chairman of a council for 32 settlements north of Jerusalem.

The main opposition right-wing Likud Party condemned the redeployment plan as a "new surrender by the government which will transform West Bank towns into safe havens for terrorists."

The Yediot Aharonot newspaper reported that the agreement to extend autonomy would be signed on July 25 in Washington, following a U.S. offer last month to host such a ceremony.

In September, a first contingent of 700 international observers would arrive to monitor the elections, the daily said.

The following month, the army would evacuate Jenin, Nablus, Kalqilya and Tulkarm leaving 1,700 Palestinian policemen to maintain order.

Major reshuffles cabinet

(Continued from page 1)

Margaret Thatcher.

The Tories' deepest divisions are on Britain's role in the European Union, an issue which many in the party regard as a matter of national sovereignty.

Mr. Major did not give further concession to the "Eurosceptics" in the campaign, and Mr. Clarke, one of the most prominent enthusiasts for European Union, kept his job as treasury chief.

With a majority of just nine in the 651-member House of Commons, Mr. Major still can be thwarted by a handful of rebels.

After three years in which dissent had made his job what he called "a hell on earth," Mr. Major shocked the party on June 22 by resigning and inviting his critics to "put up or shut up" in a leadership election.

Mr. Major won 218 votes to challenger Mr. Redwood's 89, but counting abstentions and spoiled ballots, a third of the party voted against Mr. Major.

Since 1994, he has been rated the most unpopular British prime minister since polling began after World war II.

Following is the new British cabinet:

Prime Minister — John Major
Deputy Prime Minister — Michael Heseltine
Lord Chancellor — Lord MacKay of Clashfern
Chancellor of the Exchequer — Kenneth Clarke
Home Secretary — Michael Howard
Foreign Secretary — Malcom Rifkind
Trade Secretary — Ian Lang
Lord President of the Council — Tony Newton
Environment Secretary — John Gummer
Social Security Secretary — Peter Lilley
Chief Secretary to the Treasury — William Waldegrave
Northern Ireland Secretary — Sir Patrick Mayhew
National Heritage Secretary — Virginia Bottomley
Defence Secretary — Michael Portillo
Minister without Portfolio and party chairman — Brian Mawhinney
Health Secretary — Stephen Dorrell
Lord Privy Seal and leader in the House of Lords — Lord Cranborne
Transport Secretary — Sir George Young
Agriculture Minister — Douglas Hogg
Scottish Secretary — Michael Forsyth
Welsh Secretary — William Hague
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster — Roger Freeman

Libyan cabinet reshuffled

(Continued from page 12

Arab Unity — Jomaa Al Mahdi Al Fezzani.

Foreign Affairs — Omar Al Muntasser.

Justice and security — Mohammad Hijazi.

Maritime resources — Muftah Keaibe.

Mines and Industry — Muftah Azuz.

Energy — Abdallah Al Badri.

Education and Research — Maatuk Mohammad Maatuk.

Planning and finance — Mohammad Beit Al-Mal.

Economy and Trade — Taher Al Jahimi.

Transport — Ezzeddin Al Hanshiri.

Housing — Mubarak Al Shamekh.

Tourism — Bukhari Hoda.

Agricultural reform — Issa Abdul Kafi Al Sid.

Animal resources — Massud Abu Sadde.

Health and social security — Baghdadi Ali Al Mahmoudi (inchange).

Information and culture — Fawzia Chellabi.

General inspection — Mahmud Badi (inchange).

Chief of the arms forces (de facto defence minister) — Colonel Abu Bakr Yunes Jaber.

Clashes reported

Libyan security forces have been involved in clashes with Muslim militants near the coastal city of Benghazi, and more units have been mobilised to prevent further problems, a human rights group and a Libyan opposition leader said Tuesday.

Such incidents are rare in Libya, where Col. Qadhafi has ruled with military backing since he overthrew the monarch in a bloodless coup in 1969.

"There are still reports of skirmishes," Azam Sultan of Liberty for the Muslim World told the Associated Press.

Liberty for the Muslim World, a London-based human rights group, and the National Libyan Authority for Coordination, a Cairo-based opposition group, both said major confrontations occurred in June.

They based their reports on witnesses who recently arrived from Libya. No such activity has been reported on state-run media, the main source of news about Libya for the outside world.

There was no way to independently verify the reports.

The first confrontation reportedly took place in a residential area near the port city of Benghazi, the witnesses said.

A second clash erupted June 14 when a large security force attacked suspected militants on a farm in the Al Faakat district of Benghazi, they said. The battle raged for five hours, and the militants claimed police suffered heavy losses before the farm was shelled.

The third battle took place around Ummi Mabrukah, 30 kilometres west of Benghazi, the witnesses reported. The battle spread to the town of Tubrok, near Libya's eastern bordr with Egypt. Several government buildings and institutions were burned down, the witnesses told the groups.

Security forces have been mobilised in the cities of Benghazi and Tubrok as well as along coastal roads, the groups. said.

Police have also stepped up security checks of travellers entering and leaving the country, according to Abdul Moneim Al Houni, spokesman for opposition group.

Rwanda marks first anniversary of fall of Kigali

By Julian Bedford
Reuter

KIGALI — Rwanda marked the first anniversary on Tuesday of the capture of its capital by Tutsi rebels, whose promise of a homeland free of hatred has proved much harder to achieve than victory.

President Pasteur Bizimungu, a Hutu, and Major-General Paul Kagame, the Tutsi vice president and defence minister who led the rebels to victory, will attend a parade in Kigali, whose capture was the biggest single blow to ending three months of genocide.

But while recognising the rebels' prime role in ending the bloodbath, some U.N. officials and diplomats say the country remains deeply divided and threatened with renewed ethnic war.

They cite almost nightly cross-border incursions by the defeated Hutu government army driven into exile in July last year and increasing signs of preparations for an invasion from bases in Zaire.

They say it will take generations to heal the scars.

Units of the Tutsi-dominated Rwanda Patriotic Army (RPA) have gone west to guard the frontiers but diplomats say it is only a matter of time before the two sides clash.

"The talk is of a large attack in August at Cyangugu (in southwestern Rwanda)," said a diplomat who declined to be named. "Preparations are proceeding apace. We are very concerned."

He added new uniforms for the former Hutu government army, which played a leading role in the genocide of up to one million Tutsis and Hutu moderates had been made and petrol hoarded.

Shaharyar Khan, the U.N. special envoy to Rwanda, however talked down the threat of an invasion by the Hutu majority.

"There have been rumours for six months," he said. "Remember October 25, December 10. This talk has gone on for quite some time. Of course it is a matter of concern but the concern is not all-consuming."

Mr. Bizimungu's government also plays down the threat. Mr. Kagame and Prime Minister Faustin Twagiramnungu insist they control the borders but express concern at reports of rearming in the Zaire camps.

Speaking to reporters in Kigali's Kanombe army barracks one day after his fighters seized the capital, Mr. Kagame promised a new country in which Hutu and Tutsi would live in peace together.

Two weeks later Mr. Twagiramungu promised to bring home the two million Hutu who fled as refugees from advancing rebels, saying he would never agree to be king of a deserted land.

Their position, applauded by a world stunned by the genocide, was swiftly weakened by insecurity and the spectre of revenge killings of returning Hutus by some members of the new national army.

Reports from the U.N. Refugee Agency and other agencies last September called for an end to the repatriation of refugees from their camps because of a spate of killings in the southwest.

Much of the international aid to rebuild the country and ensuring the security the refugees demand failed to appear.

International donors pumping millions of dollars every month into building and sustaining refugee camps outside Rwanda were reluctant to give more to help their homeland to lure them back.

The tense atmosphere worsened in February this year when RPA troops began a wave of arrests that filled prisons and increased international concern at the dangers of return.

The government said the arrests were of returnees and other Hutus implicated in the genocide and it was forced to act or lose its sovereignty over a country simmering with ethnic hate.

In April the army moved to rid itself of the problem of camps inside Rwanda full of hundreds of thousands of Hutus, who dared not believe its pledges that it was now safe to go home.

Witnesses said thousands died in a stampede when troops opened fire in Kibeho camp. The government said only about 300 died and gunmen fired first. An international inquiry said the army used excessive force.

Mr. Kagame assured the world unruly soldiers would be punished and raised the possibility of an amnesty for all but ringleaders of the genocide because the judicial system remained paralysed.

A U.S. aid official last Saturday blasted U.N. aid agencies and other groups for failing to meet the needs of post-genocide Rwanda. Rwandan refugees denied they were rearming and called for talks, which the Kigali government has vowed never to allow.

120,000 Jordanians are unemployed

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Nearly 120,000 Jordanians are unemployed, with the bulk of them registered with the Civil Service Commission (CSC) for government jobs, and the government is expecting to halve the unemployment rate by the end of 1996, according to reports in the local press.

The number of unemployed compares with Jordan's total work force of 860,000 (figure for 1993), according to figures cited in the latest bulletin of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ).

About 108,000 of the unemployed are registered with the CSC seeking white-collar jobs.

Minister of planning Rima Khalaf said last week that the unemployment rate in Jordan was about 15 per cent, down from 25 per cent from immediately after the Gulf crisis of 1990-91, when more than 300,000 Jordanians returned home from Kuwait.

Unofficial estimates of unemployed in Jordan say up to 18 per cent are jobless.

Experts say that it is difficult to come up with a figure since many of the unemployed do not register with the Ministry of Labour or any other government organisation and pick up odd jobs or seasonal employment.

According to officials, many skilled Jordanians are working in unskilled positions because of the lack of suitable job opportunities.

Officials and businessmen say that a sizeable part of the unemployment could be addressed before the end of next year when Jordan expects to have many projects in infrastructure and development as well as commercial ventures to take off.

The hope to alleviate the unemployment problem is mostly pinned on the Middle East and North Africa economic summit to be held in Amman in October, when Jordan will present projects worth up to $3.5 billion to international businessmen and governments.

International labour experts say that one of the main reasons for the high rate of unemployment among Jordanians is the traditional reluctance to take up jobs in the agricultural and construction sectors, where up to 250,000 non-Jordanians are employed.

Another factor is the high number of graduates that the Kingdom's universities turn out every year. Very few of them are ready to accept anything less than a desk job, preferably at a government department, the experts, say.

However, the trend is slowly changing, but is taking its own time, others say.

The government has launched a wide campaign to reorient the Kingdom's education system to ensure in the long run that jobseekers acquire skills that the country needs before they finish their education and enter the employment market.

According to Ministry of Labour figures quoted in the CBJ bulletin, the Jordanian work force was divided as follows in 1993 (figures for 1994 were not available):

— Social, personal, and public administration services — 434,806 (up from 292,000 in 1992, 270,000 in 1991 and 258,000 in 1990);

— Trade, restaurant and hotels — 130,000 (up from 63,000 in 1992, 56,000 in 1991 and 53,000 in 1990);

— Mining and manufacturing — 91,086 (up from 62,000 in 1992, 57,000 in 1991 and 53,500 in 1990);

— Construction — 60,000 (same as 1992 and up from 54,000 in 1991 and 52,000 in 1992).

— Transport, storage and communications — 57,500 (up from 52,000 in 1992, 48,500 in 1991 and 44,500 in 1990);

— Agriculture — 55,000 (up from 44,500 in 1992, 41,000 in 1991 and 38,200 in 1990);

— Finance, insurance and real estate services — 25,000 (up from 20,000 in 1992, 17,600 in 1991 and 16,800 in 1990); and

— Electricity and water — 6,000 (same as 1992, and down from 7,200 in 1991 and 6,800 in 1990). The figures showed that 8,536 were employed in this sector in 1987.

Turkey sees lower oil output in 1995

ISTANBUL (R) — State-owned Turkish Petroleum Corp (TPAO) has said it aimed to produce 2.6 million tonnes of crude oil in 1995, a decline from the 2.8 million output of 1994.

"The existing oil fields are old and productivity is decreasing with time. We have started drilling water out of these fields instead of oil. We are viewing some new fields with hope," Deputy Manager Mete Karancak told Reuters.

TPAO which currently has 579 wells, mostly located in southeast Turkey, produced 9,160,809 barrels, or 1,308,687 million tonnes of crude in January-June 1995, Mr. Karancak said.

It produced 4,171,160 barrels (about 595,000 tonnes) of crude in Batman province and 4,950,000 barrels (about 707,000 tonnes) in Adiyaman, both in the southeast.

Crude production was around 39,649 barrels (about 5,664 tonnes) in the northwestern Thrace region.

Mr. Karancak said research continued in three new oil wells, discovered near Yanankoy township in the southeast.

"It costs around $2-2.5 million to open a new oil well. It is very hard to finance research projects when we do not have the necessary funds," he added.

A total of eight new oil fields will be opened in southeastern Adiyaman, Gaziantep, Sanliurfa and Kilis, a former district recently turned into a province.

Saudi, Dutch firms enter joint venture

DUBAI (R) — Saudi industrial giant SABIC said on Monday it had formed a 75/25 joint venture with Paktank International Storage and Development of the Netherlands to operate and manage port facilities at Jubail.

SABIC (Saudi Basic Industries Corp) said the new firm, SABIC Terminal Services Co. Ltd, would take over facilities used by SABIC affiliates' at King Fahd industrial port at Jubail, a Gulf port in eastern Saudi Arabia, in the first quarter of 1996.

SABIC is a majority Saudi-government owned industrial conglomerate that controls mugh of the kingdom's steel and petrochemicals industry from fertilisers to plastics.

An agreement was signed in Riyadh on Monday by SABIC subsidiary SABIC Services Ltd Chairman Abdullah Nojaidi and Paktank Director General Wauter Bouman, it said.

SABIC Managing-Director Ibrahim Ibn Salamah said the move paved the way for more cost-effective use of port facilities by SABIC affiliates which produce liquid chemicals and gases.

'Iran oil exports could end by 2000'

NICOSIA (R) — Iran, the world's second largest crude oil exporter, might have to stop petroleum exports by the year 2000 because of high domestic energy consumption, Deputy Energy Minister Hamid Chitchian has been quoted as saying.

"With the rapid growth in energy consumption and regarding constant oil and gas reserves, it is predicted that there will be no oil for export by the year 2000," he told the official Iranian news agency IRNA.

Mr. Chitchian said cash-strapped Iran could save $5 billion a year through energy conservation.

"If energy saving becomes a reality, fundamental development will take place in the country's economy," he said.

Iran, a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), has a daily quota of 3.6 million barrels, 2.5 million of which are currently being exported.

Mr. Chitchian said power development projects in the Islamic republic include the building of four hydroelectric power plants with a projected production capacity of 4,400 megawatts.

Iran is encouraging "the import and manufacture of goods and equipment whose energy consumption are within the universal standards for consumption of energy... and importers who fail to observe the said standards will be fined," he said.

He also called for the use of renewable energy source in Iran where a reduction in the consumption of non-renewable sources would lessen damage to the environment.

Iran, which launched a birth control programme in the 1980s despite opposition by traditionalist clerics, has a population of more than 60 million.

It is involved in a project with Russia to complete a nuclear reactor started prior to the 1979 Islamic revolution in Iran to produce energy to free more oil for exports and secure much-needed hard currency, officials say.

But the United States, which regards Iran a terrorist state and has imposed trade and investment sanctions against it in an effort to isolate it, is strongly opposed to the project.

It says Iran is seeking to develop nuclear weapons. Tehran has repeatedly denied the allegation.

Qatar to establish stock exchange

DUBAI (R) — The Gulf Arab state of Qatar has published a law to set up its first official stock exchange, paving the way for a major privatisation programme.

The official Qatari news agency said the emir, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, issued a decree setting up "The Doha Securities Market".

The law said that initially, only stocks and bonds of Qatari companies and treasury instruments issued by the government would be traded.

But the cabinet may allow trading in shares issued in other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states and Arab and foreign countries "if this was considered in the national interest", the Qatari agency said.

The setting up of the exchange had long been expected in Qatar as a prelude to the privatisation programme, diplomats in Doha said.

They said Sheikh Hamad, who took over power from his father in a palace coup last week, sees privatisation as key to modernising the economy and raising funds for the government.

The government was likely initially to sell only a minority 30 per cent of its holdings in such profitable industries as steel, refineries and petrochemicals, they added.

The agency said the government would fund the setting up and running of the exchange for three years from the start of operations.

It did not say when the market would start working, but that the law would take effect 60 days from the date it is published in the official gazette.

Currently up to 17 companies are listed on the unofficial market, where trading is conducted by telephone.

GCC leaders decided last December to allow their citizens to own and trade shares across GCC borders except those of banks, money changers and insurance firms. But the GCC allowed Qatar and the United Arab Emirates temporary exemptions pending the full establishment of stock markets in the two countries.

The GCC has long-term plans to link member countries' bourses.

Of the six member states, Oman, Bahrain and Kuwait have official bourses. Shares in Saudi Arabia are traded by telephone and computer. The UAE, where trading is conducted by telephone, has plans to set up its first official bourse.

Iran confirms Shell pullout from oil project

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran has confirmed that Anglo-Dutch oil company Shell had bowed out of the running to develop two Iranian offshore fields in a deal cancelled by the U.S. firm Conoco.

But an official with the Iranian oil ministry, cited by the official IRNA news agency, said Shell's withdrawal was "something quite normal."

"Shell management was to give its response to Iran on its participation in the Sirri project, but at the last minute it decided to withdraw for reasons unknown to us," said the official, who was not identified.

The Middle East Economy Survey (MEES), which reported Shell's decision, said despite speculation that the withdrawal followed U.S. pressure, the real reason for the pullout was economic and commercial considerations.

Conoco abruptly cancelled the contract to develop the two Sirri offshore fields after U.S. President Bill Clinton slapped an economic embargo on Tehran which went into force on June 6. Shell had been reported to be in the forefront for the contract.

The National Iranian Oil Company "made it clear that any agreement would have to follow the precise terms laid down in the Conoco contract, and that there could be no flexibility on this score from the Iranian side," MEES said.

EU in diplomatic push to rescue financial services deal

BRUSSELS (AFP) — The European Union has launched a diplomatic offensive to secure support for a global pact on liberalising financial services despite U.S. opposition, EU Trade Commissioner Sir Leon Brittan said on Wednesday.

"I am personally contacting ministers of leading countries around the world, including in particular those in Japan.

"Commission delegations are lobbying hard in their respective capitals," Sir Brittan said.

The EU has led moves to keep attempts to liberalise financial services alive in the wake of the U.S. refusal to participate in a global deal and opt for bilateral negotiations.

Under the EU rescue plan, some 30 states would agree to open their markets to each other on the basis of most favoured nation (MFN) status (equal, non-discriminatory) while negotiations continue on a final deal, which could take years.

"I am anxious that the U.S. should consider calmly and carefully the benefits to them in joining us in this approach," Sir Brittan, who is to discuss the issue with U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin in Washington on July 24, said.

The penguins are back at
Amman Bookshop
3rd Circle

Save water... every drop counts!

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, JULY 6, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Contact the most powerful person of your acquaintance today and show your finest abilities. Tonight, steer clear of the public.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You have fine ideas for becoming more successful today, so put them in operation and use only the most orthodox systems.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) If you apply yourself seriously to regular tasks, you get better results today. Avoid business dealings this evening.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Be more business like and less emotional today with your partners and get better results. Rest tonight.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Get well organised early this morning so that you can produce a great deal later today, but take time for health treatments this evening.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is a good day and evening for enjoying what it is you like most, but try not to spend too much money. Be thoughtful of loved ones.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Consider your aims carefully today and do whatever will bring them into your life. Entertain at home this evening.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This is a good day to impress others with your organisational abilities, but steer clear of a pal who criticises.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Get busy today studying your newspaper and other periodicals so that you can enhance your property interests.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Work out a plan today which can bring you what you most need and desire and add extra benefits as well.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Stop daydreaming and get right to work on practical affairs and gain greater success. Spend a romantic evening with your loved one.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) See as many friends as you can and arrange social affairs for later this evening. Make big headway in personal affairs.

Birthstone of July: Ruby — Tiger's Eye

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, JULY 7, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Handle worldly affairs this morning, then plan what should be done to modernise your operations. Follow orders of bigwigs.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Put those new methods to tasks which are more practical and get your operations nicely modernised. A new contact has good ideas.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Early today handle any collections and make payments which are pressing, then off to more interesting activities.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Make arrangements with a partner which are ideal today, then handle your end of the bargain for you to be successful.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You an make big headway at tasks this morning and later today you can do much which will please your partners.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Before working on new methods of operating this morning, make appointments for this evening's fun. Budget your money well.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Handle home affairs which await your attention this morning, then you can join with a good friend at what pleases you.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Talks with allies can be handled satisfactorily this morning. Then you can handle home affairs well today, also.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Plan just how to best handle vital home and business affairs today, and then carry through. Get expert advice on property matters.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You can gain some cherished wish this morning and later today handle monetary affairs very wisely. Read pertinent brochures.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Try a more practical approach today if you want to gain that private aim. Be more direct and you get fine results.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Study how to be more consistently successful in private affairs today before you confer with an advisor quietly.

Birthstone of July: Ruby — Tiger's Eye

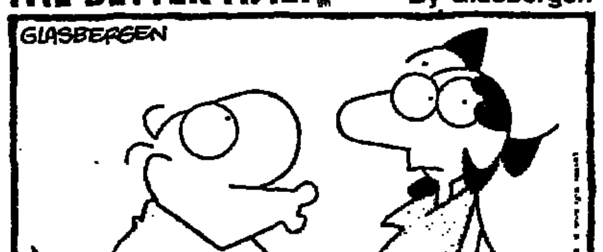
Peanuts

Andy Capp

Mutt'n'Jeff

THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen



"My top lip and bottom lip are very competitive with each other. Which one do you think kisses better?"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

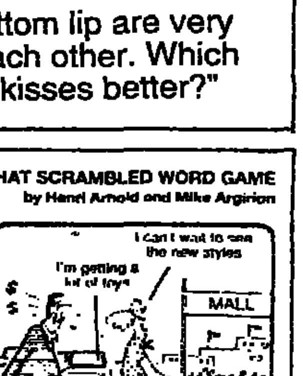
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KNACS

KAYLB

UNJAYT

WABUSY



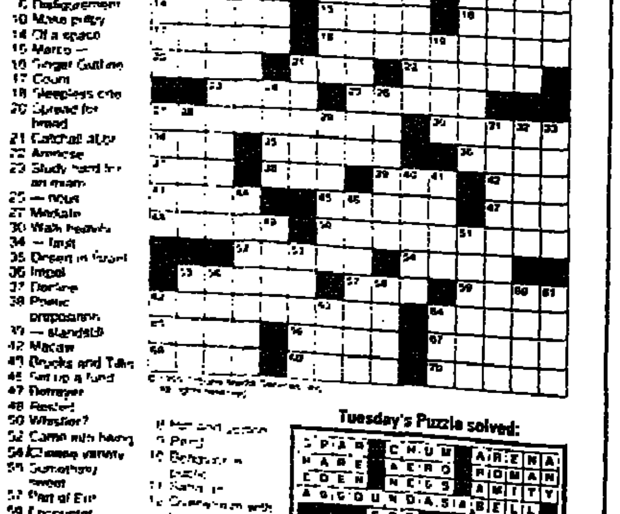
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: THE "○○○" ○○○○

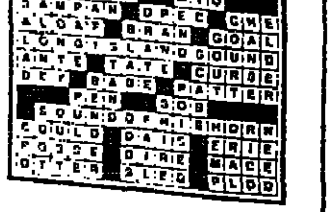
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: NOISE SIEGE WHINNY COMMON
Answer: What the chef cooked after yelling at his superior — HIS OWN GOOSE

THE Daily Crossword by James Barrick



Tuesday's Puzzle solved:



Business Daily Beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

No rise in bread prices

The Ministry of Supply stressed that bread prices in Jordan will remain unchanged despite the rises in the price of the commodity on international markets. The sources also emphasised that Jordan has enough quantities of flour. Ministry sources said in statements to the Jordan news agency, Petra, that the Irbid flour mill started its work at the beginning of this week under a supervisory panel appointed by Irbid's First Instance Court to run the affairs of the mill, which has a daily production capacity of 650 tonnes. The sources expect a surplus in flour production in the Kingdom after the mill started operation, noting that the ministry usually keeps reserves that would meet the population's needs for one month. They added that the ministry distributes 430,000 tonnes of flour annually to bakeries, as the Kingdom's real needs are estimated at 300,000 (Al Dustour).

**Ministry of Supply sources said there was a noticable rise in the number of violations of supply laws checked by the ministry's inspectors in all parts of Jordan during June. The inspectors issued 957 warnings during June as compared to 849 in the month before (Al Aswaq).

** The Ministry of Supply's grain commission purchased about 25,000 tonnes of wheat from farmers since the beginning of the agricultural season and until June 27. The commission also bought about 13,000 tonnes of barley and 151 tonnes of lentils during the same period (Al Ra'i).

** The national air carrier, Royal Jordanian (RJ), has transported 104,402 passengers last June, compared to 101,187 passengers in June 1994. This reflected an increase of about 3.2 per cent in the number of passengers. The airliner also transported 5,553 tonnes of goods during the same month, compared to 3,963 tonnes in June the previous year, meaning a 40.1 increase in the volume of cargo transported by RJ (Al Ra'i).

** Nine working papers will be presented by Jordan at the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit which will be held in Amman in October. The topics of these papers were determined by a committee of the national panel entrusted with preparing for the summit. The committee, made up of representatives of the private sector, decided in its recent meeting, which was chaired by Thabet Al Taher, to finalise these working papers before the end of July. The papers will be prepared in accordance with the following principles: working with team spirit to promote investment opportunities in the Kingdom, opening Jordan for business and establishing a regional centre to cater for these needs (Al Aswaq).

Population growth depresses UAE per capita income

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) population is growing faster than the domestic economy, depressing the per capita income after years of a steady rise, an official report showed on Tuesday.

Over the past four years, the Asian-dominated population grew by more than five per cent annually while the averaged growth in the gross domestic product (GDP) stood at around 3.5 per cent, said the report by the central bank.

From around 1.9 million in 1991, the population increased to 2.011 million in 1992, to 2.083 million in 1993 and 2.23 million in 1994.

The GDP grew in current prices from 126.2 billion dirhams ($34.38 billion) to 131.6 billion dirhams (35.35 billion) in 1992 but declined to 130.9 billion dirhams ($35.66 billion) in 993. In 1994, it rebounded to 134.8 billion dirhams ($36.73 billion), the bank said.

As a result, the per capita income dropped from around 66,141 dirhams (18,022) in 1991 to 65,478 dirhams ($17,841) in 1992, to 62,877 dirhams ($17,132) in 1993 and 60,454 dirhams ($16,472) in 1994.

This contracts with the 1980s, when the economy was galloping at more than 10 per cent due to high oil prices and an increase in the UAE's crude production. The rate was nearly double the population growth.

Around two thirds of the UAE's population are foreigners, mainly Indians, Pakistanis and other Asians, who began arriving when oil was discovered three decades ago turning the desert oasis into a super-rich nation.

Experts said the economy had slowed in the past few years because of a decline in oil prices as the energy sector still contributes nearly one third of the country's GDP. In 1994 and 1993, the UAE's energy sector recorded negative growth rates due to lower crude prices.

"Growth in most UAE non-oil sectors was very high in the past four years and some of them exceeded 10 per cent. But rates have been calculated in current prices, which include inflation," one expert said.

According to the central bank, the non-oil sector grew by around seven per cent to 89.7 billion dirhams ($24.44 billion) in 1994 from 83.8 billion dirhams ($22.83 billion) in 1993.

But the decline in the oil and gas sector slowed growth in the overall GDP to 2.9 per cent as it increased to 134.8 billion dirhams ($36.73 billion) in 1994 from 130.9 billion dirhams ($35.66 billion) in 1993.

Despite the fall in per capita income, private consumption on goods and services, surged to 71.2 billion dirhams ($19.4 billion) in 1994 from 63.79 billion dirhams ($17.38 billion) in 1993, the central bank said.

This compares with a slight increase in government consumption to 24.5 billion dirhams ($6.67 billion) from 23.5 billion dirhams ($6.4 billion) in the same period.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHMEISANI
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607172.
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 05/07/1995

COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK PLC	420	91770	218.500	218.500
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	4400	20106	4.550	4.570
BANK OF JORDAN	3300	10890	3.330	3.300
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK.	750	998	1.360	1.330
THE HOUSING BANK	5115	41482	8.150	8.100
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	100	285	2.830	2.850
JORDAN GULF BANK	1100	1419	1.300	1.290
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	3194	11980	3.760	3.760
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	2000	9040	4.570	4.520
BUSINESS BANK	200	780	3.950	3.900
BEIT ELMAL SAVING&INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	750	2825	3.790	3.780
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	28900	32364	1.140	1.120
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK.	8450	13620	1.660	1.610
BANKS SECTOR	58714	237707	INDEX NUMBER: 180.87 CHANGE	: -0.13%
JORDAN INSURANCE	1300	4238	3.260	3.260
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	4950	13171	2.630	2.620
HOLY LAND INSURANCE	1181	3341	2.700	2.830
INSURANCE SECTOR	7431	20750	INDEX NUMBER: 135.45 CHANGE	: -0.05%
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	9450	16216	1.740	1.710
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	700	1971	2.820	2.810
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	8550	8803	1.020	1.050
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER.	6500	7906	1.200	1.230
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALRA'I	1452	14507	10.000	10.000
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODORE HOTELS	250	573	2.300	2.290
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	6250	20675	3.370	3.300
SERVICES SECTOR	33152	70649	INDEX NUMBER: 131.97 CHANGE	: -0.59%
JORDAN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	20	525	25.000	26.250
ATTAJEEP CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	292	360	1.220	1.240
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	8964	34049	3.800	3.800
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	3250	9791	3.040	3.040
THE ARAB POTASH	450	2298	5.100	5.110
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINARY	1553	16120	10.420	10.380
THE JORDAN WORSTED MILLS	100	795	7.950	7.950
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	6679	33444	5.030	5.000
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	543	3250	6.000	6.000
THE PUBLIC MINING	400	1265	3.150	3.150
SPINNING & WEAVING	100	207	2.100	2.070
RAFIA INDUSTRIES	600	1494	2.500	2.490
DAR AL DAWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	2050	16180	7.870	7.900
ARAB ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY	1450	8404	5.770	5.800
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	6100	3241	.550	.540
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY	500	1275	2.550	2.550
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	1250	1488	1.200	1.190
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	3150	7107	2.300	2.250
JORDAN SULPHO-CHEMICALS	300	507	1.690	1.690
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	2087	4719	2.300	2.260
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	2250	7267	3.250	3.210
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	1480	3204	2.200	2.170
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	3750	7313	1.980	1.940
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	47346	164404	INDEX NUMBER: 131.66 CHANGE	: -0.15%
GRAND TOTAL	146643	493510	INDEX NUMBER: 156.46 CHANGE	: -0.17%

NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET : 154431
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET : 171340

NEWS IN BRIEF

Stations to improve service

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Egypt is building 11 new transformers to provide 1.1 billion kilovolt-ampheres of electricity to Cairo, Energy Minister Maher Abaza has announced. The Egyptian Gazette quoted Mr. Abaza on Wednesday as saying the new stations "will decrease the load on current units, guarantee electricity feed and improve service to 4 million families" in the crowded capital and satellite cities. He said the new stations willc ost about 410 million Egyptian pounds ($120 million) and be operating by the end of the year. The current capacity of Cairo's electrical transformers is 14,250 megavolt-ampheres, he said. The Cairo metropolitan area consumes about 40 per cent of the country's electricity.

UAE restricts fishing

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The United Arab Emirates imposed strict controls on fishing in its territorial waters Wednesday. The cabinet decided last year to ban fishing by foreigners without the presence of a UAE citizen or a Gulf Cooperation Council national on their boats. The law went into force at midnight. Col. Abdul-Rahman Shelwah, director of the UAE Coast and Frontier Guard, said it was aimed at preserving the country's declining marine wealth. "Our patrols have been supervising all ports and fishing outlets... and will continue to do so round the clock now," he told Dubai's English-language Gulf News Daily.

Iran, Turkmenistan sign accord

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) Iran and Turkmenistan have signed an agreement to ship 8 billion cubic metres of natural gas from the central Asian republic to Iran by 1997, the official Islamic republic news agency reported Wednesday. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the accord was signed in Tehran Tuesday

Saudi prince appointed oil under-secretary

DUBAI (R) — Prince Abdul-Aziz Bin Salman, a nephew of Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, has been appointed to the new post of under-secretary for petroleum affairs at the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said.

SPA said the prince, who has been an adviser to oil Minister Hisham Nazer for many years, was one of two new under-secretaries at the ministry appointed by the Saudi cabinet on Monday.

The other was Abdul-Rahman Mohammad Abdul-Karim, another adviser to Mr. Nazer who was appointed under-secretary for companies' affairs.

Financial Markets — Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date 3/7/95	Tokyo Close Date 5/7/95
Sterling Pound*	1.6013	1.5958**
Deutsche Mark	1.3800	1.3836
Swiss Franc	1.1460	1.1506**
French Franc	4.8360	4.8450**
Japanese Yen	84.79	84.85
European Currency Unit	1.3343	1.3311**

* USD Per STG
** European Opening @ 8:00 a.m. GMT

Precious Metals — Date: 5/7/1995

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*
Gold	384.65	7.50	Silver	5.07	0.120

* 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin — Date: 5/7/1995

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6920	0.6940
Sterling Pound	1.1040	1.1095
Deutsche Mark	0.5000	0.5025
Swiss Franc	0.6024	0.6054
French Franc	0.1429	0.1436
Japanese Yen*	0.8150	0.8191
Dutch Guilder	0.4464	0.4486
Swedish Krona	*****	*****
Italian Lira*	0.0427	0.0429
Belgian Franc	******	******

* Per 100

Other Currencies — Date: 5/7/1995

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8190	1.8320
Lebanese Lira*	0.047935	0.048865
Saudi Riyal	0.1842	0.1859
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3000	2.3620
Qatari Riyal	0.1889	0.1902
Egyptian Pound	0.1900	0.2160
Omani Riyal	1.7880	1.7920
UAE Dirham	0.1878	0.1890
Greek Drachma*	0.2725	0.3265
Cyprist Pound	1.4975	1.5650

* Per 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

U.S. $1.00 costs	1.3718/28	Canadian dollar
	1.3842/52	Deutschemarks
	1.5512/22	Dutch guilders
	1.1498/08	Swiss francs
	28.45/49	Belgian francs
	4.8426/76	French francs
	1618.6/3.6	Italian lire
	84.93/03	Japanese yen
	7.2350/50	Swedish crowns
	6.1650/00	Norwegian crowns
	5.4065/15	Danish crowns
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One ounce of gold	$384.65/384.85	

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Seles return splits top players

LONDON (AFP) — Moves to give Monica Seles her number-one world ranking back if she returns to the tour has split top players.

Steffi Graf, currently holding the number-one ranking has made it clear that she would like to see the Yugoslav-born American return but doesn't think she should automatically be given top ranking immediately.

"I don't agree with the proposals," said the German player referring to a stormy WTA meeting this week.

World number-two Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario has also said she would be "unhappy" if Seles was given back her former status.

Seles, 21, who is expected to return to the tour after an exhibition against Martina Navratilova in Atlantic City later this month.

The left-handed baseliner, winner of eight Grand Slam titles but without a Wimbledon triumph, has not played since being stabbed on court in Hamburg in April 1993.

"Tennis needs Monica," said Graf after reaching this year's women's singles semifinal.

Monica Seles

"The players need it. The media needs it. The tour needs it. I need it. I need a challenge," she said.

Gabriela Sabtatini, eighth in the world and beaten by defending champion Conchita Martinez in the quarterfinals on Tuesday, said of a Seles return: "It is very tough to come up with something good for her and still be fair to the rest."

Grobbelaar released after questioning

SOUTHAMPTON (AFP) Southampton goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar was released late Tuesday after being questioned here by detectives investigating match-fixing allegations.

Grobbelaar's only comment as he left the police station in this southern English coastal town was a message for his fans: "Thanks for the loyalty. I will be back in training at Southampton on Monday."

David Hewitt, Grobbelaar's solicitor, said his client's position "remains as it has always been, that he denies any involvement in any criminal activities."

The Southampton and Zimbabwe stark returned earlier Tuesday for questioning by police along with Wimbledon 'keeper Hans Segers and Aston Villa striker John Fashanu, who were also released.

The three players were bailed in March being questioned by detectives investigating allegations into a match-fixing network, said to involve Far East betting syndicates.

Thy had been arrested along with Fashanu's wife, Melissa Kassa-Mapsi, and Malaysian businessman Heng Suan Lim, who also both returned for questioning on Tuesday at police stations in the Southampton area.

All five have denied the allegations.

Hampshire police said their investigation had been referred to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) — the body responsible for deciding whether criminal proceedings are appropriate.

A decision by the CPS is expected by July 21.

Detective Chief Superintendent Roger Hoddinott, said on Tuesday: "All of the five who have responded to their police bail in Hampshire today have been or will be released later today on extended bail.

"Hampshire Constabulary has now reached the stage of their inquiry where they have been able to refer the matter to the Crown Prosecution Service, which has already appointed counsel.

The Chief Superintendent added: "This is a complex inquiry which is ongoing and will take some time to complete.

"Each of those who has been with us today has been given full opportunity to comment on the matters we have put to them. The evidence that flows from today's events will be forwarded to the Crown Prosecution Service."

Earlier, Grobbelaar lawyer David Hewitt said police had applied for a 12-hour extension to the period the goalkeeper could be detained, but this had been refused and only a six-hour extension granted by magistrates.

Hewitt said of the goalkeeper: "He is very well."

Of the five, only two continued to be questioned by detectives in the afternoon — Grobbelaar at Southampton Central Police Station and John Fashanu at Fareham Police Station.

Segers left Eastleigh police station where detectives had questioned him for four hours, saying: "This case is a load of rubbish and it's nothing to do with me.

Lakers want Magic back

LAHAINA, Hawaii (AP) — The Los Angeles Lakers want Magic Johnson back, and Johnson may be interested.

"The Lakers have asked me to return," he said in Tuesday's editions of the Honolulu Advertiser. "We're talking about it, so we have to see what happens. It's nothing that's definite yet."

Johnson has previously hinted he may want to rejoin the NBA, but this is believed to be the first time the Lakers have publicly said they are considering such a move.

The Los Angeles Lakers great, now part-owner of the NBA team, twice retired since announcing in 1992 he has the AIDS virus.

Johnson ended a comeback bid after some players said they were worried about possibly contractfing the virus should he spill blood while on the court.

Johnson, who turns 36 next month, waas in Maui for his annual fantasy camp, along with Lakers general manager Jerry west.

West, who also spoke with the Honolulu Star-Bulletin of the possible return, said times and attitudes about AIDS have changed since Johnson last attempted a comeback.

"I think the decision he made four years ago to retire was a decision I think he regretted," West said. "Now there's so much more information about health concerns that I think it's easier for him to make a decision today."

The Lakers will hold their training camp in Hawaii this fall, if the lockout ends.

Until then, the Lakers would be barred from signing Johnson to a player contract. Johnson, if he decides to play, would have to give up his ownership rights to the team.

Johnson played from 1979 to 1992, leading the Lakers to five NBA titles and winning three MVP awards. He starred on the Dream Team that won the gold medal at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

Since then he briefly coached the Lakers at the end of the 1994 season and toured The world with his own team. He has expressed an interest in playing at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Jordan upsets Al Jala' 54-37

By Aleen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Kingdom's women's basketball team Tuesday delighted their fans and officials when they upset Syrian champions Al Jala' 54-37 in a heated match at Al Hussein Youth City's Sports Palace.

The Syrian team, now on a week-long visit to the Kingdom, had won their first encounter 69-51. Two other matches are scheduled Thursday and Friday. The four matches with Al Jala' are intended to put the finishing touches on the Kingdom's team's preparations for the upcoming Asian Basketball Championship which will be held in Shizuoka, Japan July 23-30.

Unlike the first match, the Jordanian team displayed a more coherent style of play and outscored their opponents 31-16 in the second half to finish the match with a 17 point difference.

Jumana Al Salti was again Jordan's top scorer with 19 points (she had 28 points in the first match). Sirsa Naghaway had 13 and Hala Muheisen 9. Jihan Abdulnour, who currently resides in Lebanon and only recently joined the team, had four points as she tried to adapt to her teammates' play and tactics.

On the other hand, Al Jala's star Elo Mouradian was held to one point as she missed most of the match with an aggravated ankle injury. Teammates Nour Tarabishi scored 9, Miriam Abdulnour, Karla Maghamez 8 and Joel Abboushi 7.

Syria's Al Jala'

NBA superstar, Hakim 'the dream' Olajuwon, now on a brief visit on his way to Umra pilgrimage, also attended the match and happily accepted for players of both teams to take some photos with him.

Informed sources told the Jordan Times that Olajuwon might appear at a charity exhibition during the women's match against Al Jala' Thursday evening at Al Orthodoxi Court.

Looking back at the match, scoring remained close throughout the first half with Naghaway and Salti scoring for Jordan before Al Jala's Abboushi sank in two three-pointers. Jordan won the first half with a mere two point 23-21 difference which seemed enough as a morale-booster following their 18-point defeat a day earlier.

Salti, Muheisen and Hind Ghouri with Rania Dajani and Jihan Abdulnour outscored Al Jala' at the beginning of the second half taking their 30-24 lead to 45-24.

A three-pointer from Al Jala's Tarabishi little reduced Jordan's wide lead as Andeira Qasessieh and Ghouri scored again ending the match with the first victory for the Jordanian women's national team now playing their first match after an absence of 12 years from the country's basketball scene.

In a post-match statement Jordan's coach Fadi Sabbah seemed happy with his team's performance and said his team played a much better game. "We amended the mistakes we had in the first match, and the teamwork was evident. We will improve from one match to another as the players understand each other better," he added.

The Jordanian team was due to have played another four matches against a Ukrainian team. However, citing a cash-strapped budget, the Jordan Basketball Federation cancelled these matches earlier this week.

Jordan's win over Al Jala' Tuesday ended the guest team's unbeaten 3-0 record over Jordanian teams. Al Jala' beat Jordan's 1994 champions Al Jazireh twice in Aleppo early last year and again in July '94 when they finished second behind Lebanon's Homentmen in Al Jazireh's five-team regional championship.

Al Jala' currently lead the standings in the Syrian League and will play a three-round playoff against titleholders Al Horrieh and Al Ourouba clubs starting July 19.

Five of Al Jala's players are on the Syrian national team including Al Yarmouk club's powerful centre Elo Mouradian.

Other national team players include Karin and Miriam Abdulnour, Karla Maghamez, Dina Abdul Samad and Joel Abboushi. Other players are Reem Shakkour, Nour Tarabishi, Tania Ribat, Aleen Khokaz, Regina Maqdesi and Wa'ed Karroum.

The Kingdom's team includes Rana Husseini, Tala Mauje, Jumana Salti, Hala Muheisen, Shuhair Makusi, Andeira Qassesieh, Tetiana Qardan, Hind Ghouri, Sirsa Naghaway, Dima Shadeed, Zein Sha'sha, Rania Al Dajani and Jihan Abdulnour.

Schedule of matches

Thurs. 6/7 Jala vs. Jordan Orthodoxi Court 7:30 p.m.
Friday 7/7 Jala vs. Jordanl Orthodoxi Court 7:30 p.m.

Greek government apologises for fan behaviour

ATHENS (AP) — Premier Andreas Papandreou expressed sorrow Tuesday for the booing and whistling of Greek fans when the Yugoslav team won the European Basketball Championship over the weekend.

Greek Sports Minister Giorgos Lianis said he would go to Belgrade to mend ties with Greece's traditional Balkan ally. Furious Yugoslav fans and news media have accused Greece of "betrayal" because of the behaviour of the 20,000-strong crowd during Sunday's final match.

In Belgrade, fans broke windows at the Greek embassy and damaged cars belonging to Greek diplomats.

The Yugoslav team beat Lithuania 96-90, emerging after more than three years of isolation imposed on Serb-led Yugoslavia by the international community. They won all their games in the championship, twice beating the Greek team (which finished fourth, behind Croatia).

During the final, Greek fans judged that the American and Greek referees were biased against the Lithuanians. They began a barrage of insults against the Yugoslavs and FIBA, the world basketball federtion, that lasted throughout the game and the award ceremony.

"I am sorry that the incidents during the final of the European Basketball Championship, which were provoked by some Greek fans, blackened the image of Greece as the host country," Papandreou said in a statement.

"The Greek people condemn these events, which do not represent its position and its feelings," he said.

Computer system lags behind at Special Olympics

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut (AP) — When Tammy Dunn of Lincoln, Nebraska, won a silver medal in the 800-metre run at the Special Olympics on Tuesday, her coaches and family at the track congratulated her for a job well done.

Several hours later, however, her time for the distance was still not known.

With 7,000 athletes from 140 countries descending on New Haven for the games, a computer system was set up to speed things along. As of Tuesday night, the system hadn't worked properly, creating instead a backing of scores, distances and times.

"With all the stuff going on, it's challenge to get all the pieces together," said John Bisceglia, director of information services for the games.

The system, involving 500 personal computers linking venues and medical sites with a home base in downtown New Haven, was 10 months in the planning. The problem has been tracked to a broken piece of network hardware, which is being repaired.

About 200 computers must be set up outside at venues and brought inside at the end of each day. Each time the equipment is moved, set-up problems occur.

Besides scores, the computer system also handles schedules, information systems, media systems, athletes biographies, medical information, directions, transportation systems and statistics.

Several backup systems were installed and printouts of medical information are available at each treatment site to ensure the proper flow of medical data.

Bisceglia said a team of 15 people has been working round-the-clock to get the systems working.

Then everyone will know how fast 16-year-old Tammy Dunn ran.

Athletes wound their way through preliminary competitions and tournament brackets Tuesday en route to medal rounds scheduled for later in the week.

More than 170 athletes from 50 countries competed at Yale's Cullman Courts in table tennis.

"This guy's organiser Scott Preiss, pointing to 19-year-old Saulius Turskis of Lithuania, who used deft shots and spins to rout a Chinese competitor.

"He's got the build and skill to compete with able-bodied people," said Preiss, a U.S. coach. "He could be a player."

At the 1991 games, only 72 athletes took part in table tennis. Now it is the largest event at a Special Olympics.

Sixteen tables are used to handle the competition.

The 170 athletes competing in tennis during the world games play one set for each match. Line judges make the calls on the 10 courts. Ball boys fetch tennis balls for the players.

At the Yale outdoor tennis complex, Darren Wallbridge of Australia defeated Roberto Gallegos of Mexico 6-4. Wallbridge trains two days a week for tennis. The Special Olympics is his second international competition.

"I'll just keep trying," said Wallbridge, who will play his first medal rounds at the world games on Friday. "One match at a time."

Popeyes to open in Jordan

Arab Food Catering Co. ltd "AFC", is introducing in Jordan Popeyes, an international fast food chain. Popeyes is opening one of its first branches in Amman in the commercial mall, in her royal Highness Princess Haya Cultural Centre in Shmeissani.

AFC has finished preparations for the opening on July 10, 1995. The restaurant combines high quality of various kinds of food, suitable to the Jordanian citizens' taste, with comfortable atmosphere and beautiful scenery.

Popeyes international restaurants are famous for their chicken recipe. Popeyes was established in the city of New Orleans in USA. It is famous for its authentic french cuisine (Cajun Style). Popeyes has its own unique way for preparing chicken and seafood dishes as it mixes flavours and spices from the East and West, as well as its famous biscuits.

Popeyes is very cautious about matters concerning hygiene, as it wants to offer the best quality and service to its customers. AFC is going to open different Popeyes branches in Jordan this year. Popeyes restaurant have spread throughout the United States of America and are expanding worldwide.

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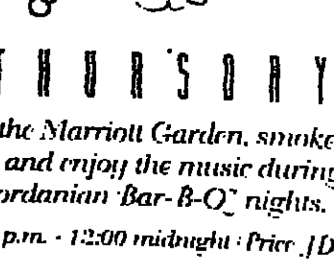

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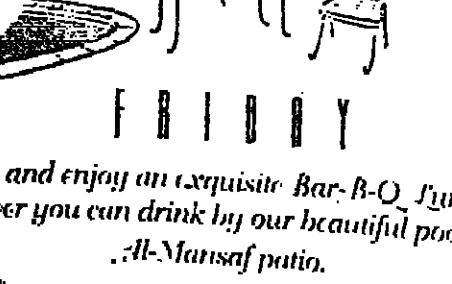

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Agassi, Sampras in semifinals

WIMBLEDON (AP) — Andre Agassi, ripping returns and passing shots with devastating pace and accuracy, moved into the Wimbledon semifinals Wednesday with a straight-sets victory over Jacco Eltingh.

Two-time defending champion Pete Sampras had a tougher time, losing the first set before rallying to beat Shuzo Matsuoka of Japan, 6-7, (7-5), 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.

The top-seeded Agassi had the Dutch doubles specialist lunging in vain time after time as he pounded out a 6-2, 6-3, 6-4, win in just 1 hour, 41 minutes.

Agassi, showing the same form that him to the 1992 title, was simply stunning from the baseline. He had 40 backcourt winners — 20 off the forehand and 20 off the backhand — and hit 21 passing shots and 13 return winners.

"Today was the best I've hit the ball yet, bar none," Agassi said. "I'm striking it cleanly, taking it early, playing offensively, not making too many errors. When you can piece these things together, you can make things happen."

It was Agassi's 23rd win in his last 24 Grand Slam matches — with his only defeat coming to Yevgeny Kafelnikov in the quarterfinals of the French Open.

Eltingh, ranked No. 57 and better known for his doubles partnership with Paul Haarhuis, was repeatedly left stranded at the net as he watched passing shots fly past him.

"I stunned him a little bit with the pace in the first set," Agassi said. "After he adjusted a little bit, I brought in the lobs and the angles."

Agassi wavered only briefly when he double faulted on break point to lose the first game of the third set. After saving two more break points at 1-3, he won five of the next six games to finish the match.

Agassi broke Eltingh in the last game. On match point, after hitting a low backhand return to Eltingh's feet, he moved up on a short ball and whipped a forehand pass into the open court.

Agassi then bowed and blew kisses to the Centre Court crowd, which included his girlfriend Brooke Shields in the guest box.

Sampras looked in trouble after losing the first set to the 108th-ranked Matsuoka, the first Japanese man to reach the Wimbledon quarterfinals since 1933.

But the match turned when Sampras broke for a 5-3 lead in the second set, pumping his fist and looking skyward in appreciation. He served out the set, finishing a stretch in which he won 12 out of 13 points.

Sampras has now won 19 straight matches at Wimbledon and is only two more victories away from becoming the first man since Bjorn Borg to win the title three years in a row. Borg won five straight from 1976-1980.

The other two top seeds were in action Wednesday.

No. 3 Boris Becker was paired against Frenchmen Cedric Pioline, and No. 4 Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia took on No. 6 Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia.

The top four women's seeds have already reached the semifinals.

On Thursday, top-seeded Steffi Graf will face No. 4 Jana Novotna, and No. 2 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario will play defending champion and No. 3 Conchita Martinez in an all-Spanish match.

It's the first time in the open era that an American woman failed to reach the Wimbledon semis.

Andre Agassi

Graf looks untouchable

WIMBLEDON (AP) — Steffi Graf was in that untouchable element that tennis players call "the zone."

Even the normally self-critical Graf couldn't conceal the state of invincibility she experienced during the second set of Tuesday's 6-3, 6-0, quarterfinal victory over Mary Joe Fernandez.

"Perfect," is how Graf described her standard of play.

"I was really going for my shots," she said. "I felt I could do anything I wanted to."

• With the first set even at 3-3, Graf reeled off straight games. She won 14 straight points while finishing off the first set and moving out to a 3-0 lead in the second. She dropped only seven points during the second set.

Fernandez, yet to win a match against Graf in 12 meetings, looked helpless as the five-time champion pounded forehand winners all over the court. On the last two points of the match, Graf whooped with joy after ripping shots beyond Fernandez' reach.

"It felt just incredible being out there," she said. "I just wanted to keep smiling constantly. I enjoyed it so much. I wish I could have played a little longer."

Graf described it as her best performance in years and said it would be impossible to play any better.

Only last week, Graf looked tentative as she struggled to cope with her chronic back condition and recent wrist injury.

"I've been surprised by how well I've been playing here, I have to say," she said. "I didn't have the best preparation for this tournament. In the start of the tournament, I didn't feel the best. To produce this kind of tennis, I didn't think about it being possible."

British oddsmakers were impressed, shortening the odds on Graf winning her sixth title from 1-2 to 4-9.

Graf led a march of the top four seeds into the semifinals, including No. 2 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, No. 3 Conchita Martinez and No. 4 Iana Novotna.

Graf will next face fourth-seeded Jana Novotna, who lost to the German in the 1993 final after being one point away from a 5-1 lead in the third set.

Novotna advanced to the semifinals for the second time with a 6-2, 6-3, win over No. 6 Kimiko Date — the first Japanese woman ever to reach the Wimbledon quarterfinals.

The other semifinal will be an all-Spanish affair between Martinez and Sanchez Vicario.

Martinez withstood a late rally from Gabriela Sabatini to win 7-5, 7-6 (7-5), while Sanchez Vicario reached her first Wimbledon semifinal with a 6-4, 7-6 (7-4) win over No. 15 Brenda Shultz-McCarthy.

The third-seeded Martinez rallied from 1-4 down in the first set, winning 11 of the next 13 games to go up 5-1 in the second set. But the eighth-seeded Sabatini then won four games in a row, saving two match points at 2-5, to even the set at 5-5.

In the tiebreaker, Sabatini saved another match point at 4-6 with a forehand passing shot before Martinez ended the 1 hour, 52-minute contest on the next point with a forehand volley.

"I was in total control of the match and then she started coming in more and putting the pressure on me," Martinez said. "I should have finished the match when I had those two match balls ... but wins like this give you a lot of confidence."

Sanchez Vicario was down a break in both sets but rallied to win each time.

The tiebreaker went with serve until Shultz-McCarthy mishit a volley to give Sanchez Vicario a 6-4 lead. The match ended on the next point with another error by shultz-McCarthy.

The victory marked a breakthrough for Sanchez Vicario, who had failed to progress past the quarterfinals in eight previous Wimbledon appearances. She had reached the quarters twice before, in 1989 and 1991.

"This is one of the happiest days of my life," Sanchez Vicario said. "This is the best Wimbledon of my career so far. My goal was to try to pass the quarters. Now that I've done it, it feels great."

Regarding her semifinal against Martinez, she said, "there is one good thing: One Spanish player is going to be in the final. It's a nice feeling to play against another Spanish player."

WIMBLEDON NOTEBOOK

*☆ **Martina closing in on title No. 19:** Martina Navratilova moved closer to her 19th Wimbledon title when she and Jonathan Stark advanced to the semifinals of the mixed doubles with a 6-3, 6-3 victory over Rick Leach and Natasha Zvereva.*

The 38-year-old lefthander, making her 23rd Wimbledon appearance in a row, has won the singles title nine times, the women's doubles seven times and the mixed doubles twice.

Though retired from singles play, she was due to partner Steffi Graf in the women's doubles until the German pulled out of that competition to avoid aggravating a back injury.

But Navratilova and Stark, seeded third, have made swift progress through the mixed doubles, gaining the last four without losing a set in three matches.

*☆ **Aussies clash:** Australian Davis Cup teammates Pat Rafter and Todd Woodbridge clashed with each other after a bitter doubles match and officials had to separate them in the dressing room.*

Title holders Woodbridge and Mark Woodford beat Rafter and Mark Philippousis 6-2, 1-6, 6-2, 7-6, but Woodbridge was angered by the energetic and vocal cheering of Rafter's English girlfriend, Alexandra Dixon.

Woodbridge gestured to her several times and pointed his racket at her as he told her to "shut up" and she left the court in tears.

At the end of the match, a furious rafter- followed Woodbridge off court without collecting his bags and shouted "don't you ever talk to my girlfriend like that."

The row continued as they walked to the dressing room where officials stepped in.

Wimbledon officials are unlikely to take action because there were no code violations during the match and the row was in private.

*☆ **Biggest isn't best:** Andre Agassi has proved that having the biggest serve doesn't necessarily win you the Wimbledon title.*

Although serve and volley is traditionally the best way to play on the fast grass courts, most of the biggest servers went home before Wednesday's men's quarterfinals.

Quarterfinalist Goran Ivanisevic heads the lists of aces and fastest speeds, but the Croat admits there is more to winning the title than booming serves.

"In 1992, I served 209 aces and still finished second. That's not good enough," said Ivanisevic, who so far has served 104 aces and has a fastest serve of 136 mph (218.8 kph).

Behind Ivanisevic in the aces list come Todd Martin with 91 and Greg Rusedski with 90. Both were eliminated in the fourth round.

Of the other surviving quarterfinalists, two-time defending champion Pete Sampras has served only 58 aces and three-time titlist Boris Becker has sent sent down 54.

Agassi, who won the title in 1992 playing largely from the back of the court and relying on his groundstrokes, has served only 19 aces in his four matches this time. Yet he is the second favourite behind Sampras.

*☆ **Graf odds shorten:** The odds on Steffi Graf winning her sixth Wimbledon title shortened to 4-9 after she hurried into the semifinal with a 6-3, 6-0 victory over Mary Joe Fernandez.*

The 26-year-old German, who is top seed even though Conchita Martinez is defending champion, has yielded only five games in her last three matches and now has a streak of 30 victories in a row.

She is rated a 1-7 shot to beat fourth seed Jana Novotna in the semifinal, even though the last time they met at Wimbledon, the Czech player squandered a 4-1 lead in the third set of the 1993 final.

Bookmakers ladbrokes rate Martinez the 7-2 second favourite with Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, her countrywoman and semifinal opponent, 6-1. Novotna is the 14-1 outsider.

*☆ **Hottest-ever:** Good news for the medical staff who have been working overtime at the hottest-ever Wimbledon reviving hundreds of spectators who have fainted, is that temperatures are expected to cool from this weekend.*

The thermometer on centre-court soared to a record 110 F (43C) and hundreds of spectators were taken ill.

Shirli-Ann Siddall, Britain's number two, who was stretchered off court with heat exhaution after collapsing in the third set of a mixed doubles, was later reported to have fully recovered.

The RSPCA also warned people not to leave pets in their cars.

IAAF unlikely to change Olympic timetable

LAUSANNE (R) — International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) general secretary Istvan Gyulai said on Tuesday the governing body was unlikely to change its timetable for next year's Atlantic Olympic to allow American sprinter Michael Johnson to attempt a unique 200-100 metres double.

"As far as I'm concerned I don't think it will change," Gyulai said on the eve of the Lausanne Grand Prix, Europe's second richest athletics meeting.

Johnson's agent brad hunt said earlier Johnson was seeking a meeting here with International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Samaranch in an effort to have the schedule amended.

But Byulai said he knew nothing of any official meeting with the IOC president, adding: "I think it's a brad hunt invention."

Hunt had said Johnson was travelling to Lausanne with two aims — to break Peitro Mennea's 16-year-old world 200 metres record of 19.72 seconds and see Samaranch.

The IAAF was already on the record as saying the schedule could not be overhauled for one athlete and alterations announced by Nebiolo after an IOC meeting in Budapest last month did not satisfy Johnson.

Johnson, who has world titles at both the 200 and 100 but as yet no Olympic gold, has said he will not consider doubling unless he can complete one event before starting the other. At present the two distances overlap.

"Whatever race I don't run in will be a joke," Johnson said.

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♡ J 9 6 5
◇ A 10 7 2
♣ 9 8 2

WEST
♠ Q 10 7 6 3 2
♡ 4
◇ 7 6 5 3
♣ J 6

EAST
♠ 9 8 4
♡ A Q 10
◇ 7 8
♣ K 10 7 5 4

SOUTH
♠ K 5
♡ K 8 7 3 2
◇ K J 4
♣ A Q 3

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 NT	Pass	2 ♣	Dbl
2 ♡	Pass	4 ♡	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Opening lead: Jack of ♣

For 35 years, during the glory days of New York's famed Cavendish Club, its executive secretary was Rudy Muhsam. With quiet diplomacy he handled the egos of the many bridge stars who were members, dealt with committees which included prima donnas and built the club into the world's premier rubber bridge club. Its roster included all the great players of the era, including many foreign experts. His death last month closes the book on a golden era of bridge.

While his wife Gert was the bridge star of the family (she played on the powerful pre-World War II Austrian women's team that swept all before it), Rudy was no mean handler of the pasteboards. On this hand he reached four hearts in quick time after a Stayman auction.

Since East's double of the major-suit inquiry showed clubs, West dutifully led the suit, declarer's queen winning. A spade to the ace was the entry for a trump lead to the king, which held as East followed with a deceptive queen. Whas would you do now?

Rudy claimed the contract, and the opponents, two world champions, conceded! The defenders were destined to be trapped in an endplay which would work against either defender: Declarer would simply lead another trump. As the cards lie, East can score two trump tricks and exit with a club honor. Declarer would win, cash the king of spades and exit with a club. Whichever defender won would either have to break diamonds, solving declarer's problem in that suit, or lead a black suit, allowing declarer to ruff in dummy while discarding a diamond from hand.

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Qatar to continue dialogue with U.S. despite differences

DOHA (AP) — Qatar's new independent-minded new ruler will maintain a "constructive and candid" dialogue with Washington but will not abandon the emirate's ties with Iran and Iraq. Qatar's foreign minister said Wednesday.

"We have a defence agreement with the United States, and there is consultation to develop economic and military ties between the two countries," Sheikh Hamad Ben Jassem Al Thani told reporters.

He called the news conference to outline Qatar's foreign policy following the bloodless June 27 coup in which the 45-year-old crown prince and defence minister, Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani, ousted his father, Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani, 63.

Sheikh Khalifa, who himself seized power in a 1972 palace coup, was in Geneva when he was deposed.

The minister indicated that Qatar will continue policies, largely devised by the new ruler before the coup, which have put the emirate at odds with its conservative partners in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), especially Saudi Arabia, in recent years.

But he did not announce any major new initiatives that would muddy the delicate diplomatic manoeuvring that has been underway in the Gulf since the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

On relations with Washington, he noted: "We're frank with them and we agree and disagree with them within the framework of a constructive and candid dialogue."

He cited Qatar's relations with Iran and Iraq as one area of disagreement. But he stressed that this "does not impede dialogue."

Qatar's insistence on maintaining links with Iran, despite U.S. efforts to isolate it, and urging the GCC to resume relations with Iraq has complicated U.S. diplomacy in the Gulf, even though the emirate allows the U.S. military to maintain stockpiles of equipment on its oil.

"We're eager to help the Iraqi people transcend their current difficulties, and at the same time, we look upon Iran as an important factor in Gulf politics," the minister stressed.

The foreign minister, widely regarded as number two in the new Doha regime, said the ruling Al Thani family has supported the takeover with an "unprecedented majority," indicating that rivalries within the clan may have been smoothed over.

However, he said that a cabinet reshuffle is planned and that Qatar's constitution will be amended to streamlining the succession. He did not elaborate on either issue.

The new ruler, Sheikh Hamad, had been increasingly impatient with his father's rule, although in recent years he has effectively held the reins of power.

While overseeing Qatar's economic development and the modernisation of its armed forces, he has also taken an increasingly independent line in foreign policy.

The minister sidestepped questions about Qatar's long-running territorial disputes with Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

"The problem with Bahrain now rests with the International Court of Justice at the Hague where we hope to reach a solution," he said, referring to a dispute over territorial waters and sovereignty of the Huwar Islands in the central Gulf.

"We don't view our ties with Saudi Arabia as problematic. We hope the distinguished ties between the two countries will return to normal," he said.

Saudi Arabia has endorsed the June 27 coup, allaying fears that it might support the ousted Sheikh Khalifa because of unease over Sheikh Hamad's policies.

CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE: Iraqi Minister of Endowment and Religious Affairs Abdul Munem Saleh (left) and Cardinal Edward Cassidy, representative of Pope John Paul II, speak at the opening of the second Christian conference in Baghdad. The cardinal, who joined clerics from 30 countries for the opening of the three-day conference, said the Vatican opposed economic sanctions when they punish innocent people in Iraq (AFP photo)

Kuwait paper says good jobs to Sabahs

KUWAIT (R) — An opposition newspaper, venturing unusual criticism of Kuwait's ruling Sabah family, on Wednesday said its members sometimes got good jobs through preferential treatment at the expense of better qualified people.

The left-leaning Al Talea, in a front-page commentary, said officials should try to limit the alleged practice because there was a risk that this might give rise to corruption.

"The dominant feeling among citizens about such appointments is that they reflect the disregarding of the principle of equality between all people," it said.

"The danger implicit in the growth of such a practice is that such an atmosphere could become a barrier to protect corruption."

It said bodies in which preferential treatment was suspected of having occurred included the civil aviation department, Oil Ministry, the Higher Education Ministry, the defence establishment and municipal administrtation.

"Although there is no doubt some family members are qualified for some posts, that is not generally the case," it said, adding the alleged practice caused feelings of injustice.

The paper said it did not want qualified Sabahs to be deprived of jobs but officials should take caree to protect the rights of everyone.

Kuwaitis, including veteran opposition politicians and activists, say they support the family's leading position in the country's political affairs.

Diplomats note Kuwaitis rallied around the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

But some opposition deputies say that all Kuwait's top families continually attempt to create monopolies in trade and commerce.

Government oficials deny preferential treatment occurs and note there are many members of the Sabah who are less well-off than members of the emirate's other leading families.

Yemen expects better Kuwait ties

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh says he is optimistic that his country's relations with Kuwait, which nosedived during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, will improve soon, the Al Siyassah daily reported Wednesday.

"I'm optimistic that Yemeni-Kuwaiti relations will receive more understanding when communications and meetings between officials from the two countries take place. This will remove misunderstandings," he told the pro-government newspaper.

Relations between Kuwait and Yemen have been strained because of Yemen's pro-Iraq sympathies after Iraq invaded the emirate in August 1990.

Mr. Saleh, who last month reconciled with Saudi Arabia after years of friction, said he hoped that the meetings will take place "in the near future." He did not say where they would be held.

The Yemeni leader stressed that although relations between Kuwait and Sanaa are "cold," they have not been severed.

"There's a Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in Sanaa and we have named a charge d'affaires to open the Yemeni embassy" in Kuwait, he said. "We hope this will find a positive response from Kuwait."

The Kuwaiti government is inching towards reconciliation with Arab countries which did not support it during the Gulf crisis. But many Kuwaitis and their emirate's 50-member legislature still resist the idea.

Yemen, an impoverished country of 14 million situated on the southwestern tip of the Arabian Peninsula, wants Kuwait to resume the financial support it provided before the Iraqi invasion.

Mr. Saleh told Al Siyassah that Yemen hopes to raise its current oil production of 300,000 barrels a day by 360,000 barrels daily if parliament approves amendments to contracts with foreign companies.

He said he hoped Yemen will soon be earning $600 million to $700 million a year from natural gas sales.

The country has gas reserves estimated at 15 trillion cubic metres, he noted.

Mr. Saleh also offered to mediate for the release of Kuwaitis detained in Iraq.

"If Kuwait asks for it, I will spare no effort to end the suffering of Kuwaitis in Iraqi prisons," President Saleh said in the interview.

"Kuwaitis are brothers and we want to see the Gulf crisis' consequences disappear forever," he said. "The settlement of this question will help normalise ties between Arab countries and will restore their solidarity.

Mr. Saleh also proposed "bilateral meetings to help clear up misunderstandings" between his country and Kuwait.

Iraq refused on June 18 to meet Kuwaiti and Western delegates who wanted to discuss the prisoners issue at a meeting along the common border, according to Kuwaiti officials.

Baghdad had said a week before that it had examined 230 of the 609 cases of missing persons submitted by Kuwait.

Libyan cabinet reshuffled

TUNIS (R) — The Libyan government has reshuffled the cabinet, appointing a woman as minister for the first time, the official Libyan news agency JANA reported on Wednesday.

The changes included new ministers for industry and mining, tourism, information and culture, and animal resources.

The Libyan peoples congress, the equivalent of parliament, named Muftah Azzouz as industry and mining secretary (minister).

Boukhari Hawda was given the new post of tourism secretary and Messaoud Abousoud was appointed secretary for animal resources.

Fawzia Bashir Challabi was named secretary for information, culture and popular mobilisation. She is the first woman to hold a post in the Libyan government.

The congress also appointed Al Ajili Al Hadi Brini as vice-governor for the Libyan Central Bank, JANA said.

Its four-day annual session ended on Tuesday night in the coastal town of Sirte after adopting the 1995 budget, JANA added without elaborating.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi attended the closing session, it said.

Following is the list of Libyan government ministers following the minor reshuffle decided Tuesday by the country's parliament.

Prime Minister — Abdul Majid Al Kaud.

(Continued on page 7)

Bahraini is sentenced to death for riot killing

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — A Bahraini has been sentenced to death for killing a policeman during recent riots that swept Bahrain, the Interior Ministry announced Wednesday.

It was the first death sentence linked to the violence that began last December.

Two other defendants were jailed for life by the criminal high court Tuesday for the March slaying of Corporal Ibrahim Al Saidi of the Criminal Investigation Department.

Two others were imprisoned for 10 years and four for five years. Two men were acquitted.

The sentences were the first to be handed down since a June 25 government reshuffle. That promised a new approach to Bahrain's economic and social problems, which were at the root of the unrest in this key Gulf finanical centre.

The emir, Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa, has to ratify the death sentence and there was no indication when, or if, the execution would be carried out.

Executions are rare in Bahrain. They are usually carried out by firing squad.

The sentences were the harshest to be handed down since the trials of dozens of people charged with sabotages and violence began several weeks ago.

Most of those convicted were given prison terms of around 10 years with heavy fines.

The Interior Ministry also disclosed that one man was sentenced to life imprisonment June 21 for taking part in a firebomb attack on a police jeep in March in which another policeman was killed.

Fourteen other defendants were jailed and five were acquitted in that trial.

Saidi, 34, was the only Bahraini policemen killed in the rioting. Four other officers who were slain were Pakistanis.

Saidi's body, beaten and stabbed, was found near his vehicle in the suburb of Nuwaidrat. That was one of the storm centres of the rioting that erupted after a prominent Shitte Muslim preacher was arrested for agitating for political and economic reform.

Shiites comprises more than 50 per cent of the 500,000 population and are largely at the bottom of the social scale. They were at the forefront of the unrest.

The rioting ebbed in April as the government began to address the causes of the violence.

The State Security Court, whose rulings cannot be appealed, said on May 17 that it was not competent to try the Saidi case and sent it to the high criminal court.

On May 2 the security court sentenced six Bahrainis to between one year and five years in prison after it found them guilty of sabotage.

On May 1 the same court sentenced 10 other people to between three years and seven years in jail for taking part in protests and belonging to an illegal organisation aimed at overthrowing the government.

The State Security Court was created by a government decree after parliament was dissolved in 1975 partly for refusing to support a bill to set up the court.

Zeroual vows to end extremism

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algerian President Liamine Zeroual vowed Wednesday to wipe out extremism and said that dialogue with political groups remained open so long as they steered clear of violence and abided by the constitution.

"We will, by relentlessly maintaining national vigilance, the staunchness of our brave security forces and the outstretched hand of the nation to its lost children, work together to perfect the definitive eradication of abject terrorism and intolerable violence at all levels of our society," the president was quoted by the state APS news agency as saying.

He was speaking at the inauguration of a youth council on the 33th anniversary of Algerian independence.

"We are facing a combination of internal forces thirsty for power and foreign forces harbouring hegemonistic ambitions on our country," he said.

"Dialogue is of value in Algeria and Algeria alone, it can only make progress within the limits of a certain context and key constant elements, of which the main points are non-violence, respect for the Constitution and respect for the laws of the republic," he added.

Mr. Zeroual made no reference in his speech to the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

Over the past three weeks, Algerian newspapers have reported contacts between the president and FIS leaders on a political solution to end three and a half years of violence. Some report that the compromise will provide for FIS leaders to call an end to the violence in exchange for their freedom.

Algeria has been plunged into civil strife ever since the government annulled a 1992 parliamentary poll which the FIS was poised to win spectacularly.

Over the last few days, the main intermediary between the two parties, Sheikh Hocine Slimani, has said that negotiations could be concluded "between now and the summer" except for the stumbling block of "guarantees" demanded by the Islamist leaders.

On Wednesday, the newspaper La Tribune reported that Sheikh Slimani was arrested overnight Monday, according to his wife.

There is so far no official confirmation of his arrest.

Meanwhile, the FIS washed its hands of the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) declaring that it had transgressed Islamic law in its fight against the government, an Arab daily said Wednesday.

The GIA is the most hard-line movement fighting the regime and is held responsible for the murder of civilians, including women and children for allegedly breaking strict Islamic Sharia law.

The FIS "executive council has nothing to do with the (GIA) after it has proved conclusively its abandonment of God's law," the FIS said in a communique reported by the London-based Al Sharq Al Awsat, received in Cairo.

GIA "leaders follow now their passions, which have lead them off the path," said the communique, signed by Yousef Bubras, the FIS national coordinator, and Abdul Razaq Ragam, FIS information officer.

Islamists well-poised to sweep Zarqa municipal elections

By Beatrix Immenkamp
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

ZARQA — Islamists are expected to win municipal elections in Zarqa next week despite their fears that the government seeks to end their control, since 1989, of Jordan's second largest city.

Observers anticipated Islamists will regain control of the city council despite claims by the Islamists that the government was placing obstacles in the way of voter registration by their supporters.

Twenty-four candidates are contesting the July elections, with two candidates, Sheikh Yasser Al Omari and Dr. Mustapha Al Fayyad, vying for the position of mayor. The two blocs, the Islamic Action Bloc headed by Sheikh Omari and the National Bloc led by Dr. Fayyad, each consists of 10 candidates, with four candidates running as independents for membership of the nine-member city council.

The list of candidates reflects an attempt by both blocs to appeal to a broad geographical, tribal and political base in a city with a diverse, mostly working-class population. The National Bloc includes three independent candidates from the Bani Hassan tribe, which is traditionally the biggest voting bloc in the city, four independent candidates of Palestinian origin, one Christian candidate from the left, a leftist from Karak and an independent from Irbid. Only one candidate was a member in the previous city council.

The Islamic Action Bloc's list of candidates includes five previous council members, including former Mayor Omari. Five candidates are members of the Islamic Action Front (IAF), three of them members of the party's consultative council (Majlis Al Shura); the others are independents. The list includes two candidates from the Bani Hassan tribe, four candidates of Palestinian origin, two candidates from Irbid, one from Tafileh and one candidate of Circassian origin.

Yasser Al Omari

Islamic candidates won the majority of Zarqa seats parliamentary elections held in 1989 and 1993 and controlled the previous municipal council until its dissolution in May last year.

Islamic candidates have traditionally been popular in a city where the Muslim Brotherhood has provided an extensive network of social and charitable organisations that offered health, educational and cultural services as well as financial support for the city's poorer residents.

The people of Zarqa have felt for a long time that their town did not receive the official economic and political attention that its residents believe it deserves — the unfortunate result, political analysts explain, of its diverse demographic composition. Zarqa represents a microcosm of Jordan, but lacks the tribal base to lend it clout in a country which for long formulated its policies largely with an eye to tribal affiliations.

Mustapha Al Fayyad

But, surprisingly, only three Islamic candidates were elected to the 12-member board of Zarqa's Chamber of Commerce on June 20, seen to be a test for the outcome of the municipal elections.

Islamists claim that the chamber election results were manipulated in favour of candidates supported by the government, a claim strongly refuted by the committee, headed by Zarqa's governor, Musleh Tarawneh, which oversaw the elections.

A cause of concern to both blocs is the low voter registration, a mere 49,443 in a city with 623,943 residents, 80 per cent of whom are believed to be of voting age. Sheikh Omari accuses government officials who carried out registration of voters for the municipal elections between April 11 and May 15 of discriminating against voters with known Islamic sympathies. In order to register, all voters had to present their family books, which were marked with a stamp to prevent multiple registration, and their electricity bills, to prove residence. According to Sheikh Omari, Islamic sympathisers were asked to provide additional documents "up to 20," in a bid to discourage registration.

But according to Dr. Fayyad, all potential voters faced difficulties in registering, due to officials insisting on "applying the letter rather than the spirit of the law."

(Continued on page 7)

COLUMN

U.N. refugee chief receives award

PHILADELPHIA (AFP) — Sadako Ogata, the U.N. high commissioner responsible for the safety of more than 20 million refugees worldwide, was honoured Tuesday on the steps of Independence Hall. Mrs. Ogata, a 67-year-old Japanese diplomat, recieved the Philadelphia Liberty Medal at a ceremony on the anniversary of American independence. Standing on a dais framed with red, white and blue flowers, she said "through this award, you are honouring the courage of 5,000 people, who work for the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees." Mrs. Ogata, first appointed in 1991, said her greatest challenge has been caring for nearly 3 million refugees from the war in Bosnia. "We cannot celebrate the independence of one nation without acknowledging the strangulation of another," Mrs. Ogata said. We The People 2000, a non-profit, nonpolitical group, confers the medal and a $100,000 award annually to an individual or group that contributes to freedom and equality. Past recipients include the French medical relief group, Doctors Without Borders and South African leaders Nelson Mandela and F.W. De Klerk. Czech President Vaclav Havel received last year's award.

China to ban ads for breast-milk substitutes

BEIJING (R) — China will ban most advertising of breast-milk substitutes from October to persuade mothers to feed their children with their own milk, the Xinhua News Agency said. Regulations issued by several government agencies also forbid companies to promote such substitutes through giveaways of health-care equipment or money, the agency said. Companies may not supply free or cut-price milk substitutes to mothers or medical centres or advertise their products in newspapers, magazines or on television, the rules say. The rules were issued by the ministries of public health, internal trade and radio, film and television in cooperation with other agencies, it said. They reflect concern that too many mothers are being misled to believe that substitutes are better for their infants when they could be using their own breast milk, which is more nutritious and cheaper. Many hospitals have already banned breast-milk substitutes and health workers have launched campaigns to persuade women not to rely on commercial substitutes, which are widely sold by Chinese and foreign makers.

Husband burns wife to death for slapping son

BOMBAY (AFP) — A man living in a township close to Bombay killed his wife by setting her on fire after she slapped the couple's eight-month-old son, a local afternoon newspaper reported Wednesday. The mass circulation newspaper Mid-Day said Baburao Motiram Hire beat up his wife, Sunita, 26, and set her on fire after dousing her with gasoline following a row at their home in Ulhsasnagar Sunday. Hire became enraged, the newspaper said, after his wife slapped their infant son.

Heart surgeon saves horse

LONDON (AFP) — A British heart surgeon saved a showjumping horse from bleeding to death with techniques he had previously only used on humans, the Times reported Wednesday. Tony Nicholson and a colleague performed a three-hour operation on the animal — after vets had been unable to save it — to stop bleeding arteries. He had been called to Liverpool University's Animal Hospital by the valuable five-year-old's owner, Chris Langton, a consultant neuro-radiologist, the Times said. Dr. Nicholson had reservations about using the technique — which stops an artery bleeding by placing balloons or metal coils at the bleeding point — on a horse, but decided there was no reason why it would not work.